



SOCCER ACTION

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION — CATEGORY B

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ
ΣΕΙΣ : 15

Jugoslovenska
scena st. 14.

Vol. 4, No. 40 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1979

250 Spencer Street, Melbourne, ph. 60 0421

60 cents

Marconi set to dominate awards

Marconi is likely to dominate the Australian Soccer Press Association (ASPA) award in Adelaide tomorrow (Thursday).

Four players from the PSL champion side — Mark Jankovic, Eddie Krncevic, Peter Sharne and Ivo Prskalo — are strongly in the running for the Player of the Year award.

Previous winners have been Ken Boden (Newcastle KB United) in 1978 and Jimmy Rooney (then Marconi) in 1977.

Marconi coach Les Scheinflug is hot favorite for the Coach of the Year award, won last year by Gerry Chadli (Sydney City) and in 1977 by Rale Rasic (then Marconi).

Scheinflug's strongest competition comes from Alan Vest of KB United, Nereo Satic of Brisbane City and Manny Poulakakis of Heidelberg United.

Leading candidates for the best under-21 player award are Greg Woodhouse, goalkeeper of APIA, Charlie Villani of Adelaide City and Peter Raskopoulos of Sydney Olympic, which is seeking readmission to the PSL.

Tony Boskovic of NSW and Don Campbell of South Australia appear to have the best chance of winning the Referee of the Year award.

Marconi players are likely to form the bulk of the ASPA Team of the Year. Jankovic, Krncevic, Sharne and Prskalo have an excellent chance of being included. Others in the running for the team include Martyn Crook (West Adelaide), Greg Woodhouse (APIA), Tony Henderson (Marconi), Eddie Thomson (Sydney City), Jimmy Rooney, Jim Campbell (Heidelberg), Steve Perry, George Potter (Brisbane City), John Nyskohus, Bobby Russell (Adelaide City), Roy Drinkwater and Ken Boden (KB United).

A suggestion is expected to be made that the voting system for the awards be changed next year.

It will be proposed that 3-2-1 votes for every game be submitted on a weekly basis. At the moment, all voting is done at the end of the season.

The ASPA, which started the Australian Player of the Year awards, was formed by a



small group of writers at the Riverside Inn Hotel, Melbourne, on July 25, 1974.

Present at the meeting were: Jim Barker, Jim Bakatsoulas, Jim Cook, Elias Donoudis, Stephen Kalus, Nick Kitsakis, Stan Stacey, Fred Williers and Laurie Schwab.

Barker was the first president and Kalus the first secretary — positions they still hold.

The formation of a similar association in Sydney followed the birth of the Melbourne body. Then came new groups in Brisbane, Adelaide, Newcastle and Canberra.

All are autonomous but connected loosely under the name Australian Soccer Press Association.

The ASPA and the PSL thank the following for helping to stage the third national presentation night: TAA, Umbro International, Dunlop, Wedgewood, Goldair Travel, News Ltd., Adelaide's Trophy House, Radio 5DN, Savings Bank of South Australia, 'Soccer World' and Philips Industries Holdings Pty. Ltd.



Peter Sharne — one of the Marconi stars in the running for the Australian Player of the Year award.

PROMOTERS RAKE IN \$130,000 ON HISTORIC COSMOS MATCH

And now: Juventus, Liverpool

A company called International Artists has dragged Australian soccer into a new era of glitter, tinsel and show biz hype.

By drawing 43,000 paying customers to the Australia v New York Cosmos match in Sydney last week, International Artists showed that soccer can be marketed in the same way as hamburgers, fried chicken and movie stars.

Ralph Lynch, head of the promotions company, would not disclose the profit made on the match but it is believed to be \$130,000.

The 43,000 paying spectators parted with a total of about \$290,000. The promoters paid the Socceros a \$15,000 match fee, and gave a percentage of

the take as rental of the ground, and must have spent close to \$100,000 on publicity and promotion.

International Artists were employed by Adelaide City to promote the match in Adelaide last Sunday, with the result that about 23,000 people turned up.

This is only the start of International Artists' involvement in soccer.

Mr Lynch revealed after the game in Sydney that his company may link up with Adelaide City to bring Italian club Juventus to Australia next year.

He said he also wants to promote matches by Liverpool here.

"The ultimate would be to bring the full England international team to Australia but that may prove too difficult," Mr Lynch said.

However, it is unlikely that the ASF will agree to allow International Artists to continue promoting international matches on the same terms as those for the Cosmos game.

The ASF would demand a much bigger cut of any future cakes.

Alternatively, the ASF may be willing to employ International Artists to market matches staged by the ASF

By LAURIE SCHWAB

International Artists have promoted Australian tours by Ray Charles, Dionne Warwick, The Stylistics, James Brown, Lou Rawls and Isaac Hayes, but they were small fry compared with the Cosmos promotion by far," Mr Lynch said.

How did it come about that the promoters turned from singers to soccer?

"A friend of mine is a soccer buff and we talked about the Cosmos a few times. Then I read in the 'Telegraph' that they were

coming to Australia to play in Melbourne, so I rang up Johnny Warren who was mentioned in the article.

"I had a gut feeling that it could work, so I got in touch with them, made the deal, and here we are."

It was the Victorian Soccer Federation, through its chairman Michael Weinstein, that made the first approach to the Cosmos, signing them up for the match against Victoria.

Continued P. 6.

Richards speaks out
O'Connor, Davies,
O'Shea
brothers
move, p.2



• Ray Richards



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'PANIC DECISION ... I can't see much hope'

Ray Richards hits out over Wallace appointment



Phil O'Connor — from St. George to APIA for \$9000.



Peter Beggs — from Sutherland to St. George.



John Davies (left) — from Canberra to St. George for \$12,500. Saints brothers John (centre) and Rob O'Shea (right) may replace him at Canberra.

Willie Wallace, the Scottish international and former Glasgow Celtic midfielder, will be full-time coach of APIA Leichhardt next season.

APIA president Nick Papallo said Wallace, who played with the Leichhardt team between 1975-77, would sign a contract soon and would arrive in Sydney early in the New Year.

The decision to appoint Wallace is a slap in the face for Ray Richards who coached APIA for most of the 1979 season after the resignation of Jim Adam, and had been re-appointed for the 1980 season.

He described the club's action of hiring Wallace as a 'panic decision'.

"The administration saw what happened to Sydney Olympic and made a quick decision without putting much thought into it," said the disappointed Richards.

"There's no value in having a full-time coach when the players are part-time, and when there's little else to do. It's a crazy situation."

Richards said the club had planned for him to be in charge in 1980 and for a professional coach to be introduced in 1981 when a development scheme to be run in local schools would necessitate a full-time coach.

"The development scheme isn't organised, so there's nothing for a full-time coach to do except sit around and wait for the players to finish work and arrive for training at night," Richards said.

"This sort of decision is typical of Australian clubs. The administrations have no knowledge of football, and the game suffers as a result. I can't see much hope under the existing set-up."

Richards said he had rejected APIA's offer to be general manager and that he would probably 'give football a break'.

However, he still will lead APIA on a tour of Italy in December and will be in charge of the APIA youth team which will compete in a tournament in Italy in February.

Papallo said he had asked Wallace to be on the look-out for a midfielder and a striker to bring to Australia.

By KYLE PATTERSON

"I would like to sign two good players from overseas and Sebastian Giampolo from Inter Monaro," said Papallo. "The club is talking to Giampolo at the moment."

APIA's first major signing to strengthen the team for next season was Phil O'Connor, the St. George and Australian international winger.

O'Connor cost APIA \$9,000, the amount stipulated in his contract with St. George.

The former Luton Town forward cost St. George \$9,000 when he transferred from Wollongong in 1977. The Saints released O'Connor after a dispute over payments.

St. George believed if it met O'Connor's demands, other players in the club would ask for similar rises, leading the club into financial trouble.

The Saints now are reported to be on the verge of signing John Davies from Canberra City for \$12,500.

St. George signed Peter Beggs from Sutherland recently but John and Rob O'Shea are reported to be moving from St. George to Canberra.

Mr Papallo added several APIA players would be put on the transfer list to make way for the new players.

The only player who officially has left APIA is costly Italian import Rosario Rampanti. He is now playing in the Italian Second Division and will not return to APIA.

During his stormy stay with the club, Rampanti was reported to be receiving \$1000 a game.

Mr Papallo said that APIA was not interested in signing Essendon Croatia striker Tommy Cumming, and denied allegations that the club tried to poach him.

"APIA has a policy never to contact a player without permission," he said. "There's no substance to the charges that we tried to poach Cumming."

Papallo added that the club was working hard to improve Lambert Park, APIA's home ground for 1980.

"The PSL informed us several alterations and improvements were needed before Lambert Park would be suitable," said Papallo.

"The playing surface, changing rooms, Press box and referee's room all have been up-graded to meet the requirements. They are the bare necessities, but the large-scale work of building grandstands still is in the planning stage."

"However, I expect our crowds to increase because of our move back to Lambert Park, which is local for our supporters."

The PSL has also directed APIA to change its name. Mr Papallo said the club's members would have a say in this decision.

"At this stage, nothing is firm," said Papallo. "However, Lambert Park Rangers and Leichhardt Inter are two names that seem to be popular."

APIA's senior players will tour Italy in December for games against top clubs. Ray Richards said he would like to have a few guest players in his squad.

"I contacted Joe Piccione of Footscray but it's up to Tony Kovac and his club's committee," said Richards. "Naturally, I'd like to have Joe on the tour."

Richards said he also would like to have several guest players in the APIA youth team for the February tour.

"Danny Moulis of Canberra City has asked me if he could be in the squad," said Richards. "I'll be sitting down with the tours organiser Frank Avati and deciding which players we would like to take."

"The problem is that many clubs want their players for pre-season training in February."



Willie Wallace at work in a shoe shop during his last stint with APIA. He will be full-time coach next year.

Raelene Boyle, Cosmos raffle at benefit game

A quality Mitre soccer ball, autographed by the superstars of the New York Cosmos, will be raffled during the Terry Luckhurst benefit game at B. T. Connor Reserve, Reservoir (Vic.), on Sunday, November 18.

TWO Le Coq Sportif track suits also will be raffled, with all proceeds and gate receipts from the match, going into a fund to aid Terry Luckhurst and his family.

Luckhurst, the former Juventus, Ringwood City and Box Hill star, tragically has been made an invalid by the disease motor neurone.

Australian Olympic Games hero Raelene Boyle will kick off the game. The anticipated kick-off time is 3 pm. 'Soccer Action' hopes to have the official kick-off time in the last issue for 1979 next week.

The benefit game will bring together some of Australia's great players in a PSL All-Star v Preston Macedonia clash.

The PSL will be represented by the following players: goal-

keepers — Jack Reilly, Peter Laumets; defenders — Mike

Pye, Jim Kondarides, Alan Davidson, Pat Bannan; mid-

fielders — Jim Campbell, Joe Piccione, Peter Ollerton; forwards — Atti Abonyi, Alan

Evans, Branko Buljevic and George Campbell.

Four of those players appeared in the 1974 World Cup finals and six others have represented Victoria.

Abonyi (Sydney Croatia), Buljevic (Heidelberg), Ollerton (Footscray JUST) and

Reilly (Juventus Melbourne), played for Australia against West Germany, East

Germany and Chile in the World Cup finals.

Laumets, Pye, Davidson, George Campbell (South Mel-

bourne), Kondarides and Piccione (Footscray) have represented Victoria.

Add to this list Evans (South Melbourne), a former star of

Liverpool, Bannan, a Rothmans Medal winner and Jim

Campbell (Heidelberg), perhaps the best attacking

midfielder in the country, and you have a dazzling team!

Preston Macedonia is likely to have Macedonian stars

Mendo Ristovski and Zoran Iliiski for the big game. This

should please Preston's supporters, who usually have only

one Macedonian — Ljube Petrovski — in their team.

Preston will have all its first team players available, except

for left-back Steve Beech, who is returning to England for a

holiday in early November.

Preston manager Tony Vrzina said he may use the

game to try a few players he would like to sign for the 1980

season.

City shifts

Sydney City will move to Sydney Sports Ground

or the modernised Marks Athletic Field next year.

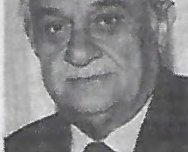
Wentworth Park, Sydney City's home

ground for the past 18 years, is about to be

closed for work on a new grandstand.

Group of companies set to push soccer

"I think we have to stop playing around. We are in big business. We have to get down to market the game professionally. The Cosmos match must have proved that."



Sir Arthur George

They are the words of Australian Soccer Federation

president Sir Arthur George who returned from a trip overseas last week.

Sir Arthur announced that a consortium of companies had been established to sponsor the

Socceroos' World Cup campaign and the World Youth

Championship to be played in Australia in 1981.

The companies will be identified at a Press conference on

November 27.

On November 19, FIFA officials and representatives of the

sponsor companies will meet ASF leaders in Sydney to

draw up a marketing programme.

Among those present will be Patrick Nally, principal of the

English company co-ordinating the total sponsorship, Sepp

Blatter, secretary of the World Youth Championship

committee and Paul Barron of Coca-Cola in Atlanta U.S.

The ASF probably will appoint a company to concentrate

exclusively on match marketing. This company

could be International Artists. An advertising agency public

relations company and general marketing company also may

be retained.

England to bring '16 internationals'

The English FA squad to play against Australia next June will comprise 16 full internationals, ASF president Sir Arthur George said on his return from overseas last week.

Manager of the touring team would be Ron Greenwood, he added.

However, it is unlikely to be the full England international side.

Australia will play against England B, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and Scotland B on a European tour in November, 1980. The national youth team will go on the same tour.

Sir Arthur also made his since much-publicised threat to withhold British soccer programmes from local TV screens unless the networks agree to give Australian soccer a "fair go."

He said the ASF had the power to do this, as it holds the Australian rights over the British soccer programmes.

Oceania Cup doubt

UCKLAND — The Oceania Cup tournament, scheduled for Noumea in December, looks certain to be postponed until February next year.

Travel problems already have ruled Australia out and New Zealand now finds itself in the same situation.

The tournament, between

countries in the South Pacific basin comprising a geographical group of soccer's world

body FIFA, could proceed minus NZ and Australia.

But it would mean nothing without Oceania's two strongest football playing nations.

The new dates for the tournament suggested here are

February 22 to March 3.

ONE TO GO

Next week's issue will be our last of the decade. As usual, "Soccer Action" goes into recess for the summer

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SOCCER ACTION is published every Wednesday by Newspress, Pty Ltd, a Division of Age Publications, 250 Spencer Street, Melbourne 3000. P.O. Box 628E, Melbourne 3001. Distributed in Victoria and Broken Hill by Magdies Pty Ltd, 250 Spencer St., Melbourne 3000; in NSW by Allan Rodney Wright (Circulation) Pty Ltd, 36-40 Bourke St., Woolloomooloo 2001; in S.A. by B.G. & K. L. Fuller, 105 Main St., Beverley 5008; in Tasmania by The Mercury, 93 Macquarie St., Hobart 7000; and in Queensland by Mirror News papers Ltd., 367 Brunswick St., Brisbane 4006.

EDITOR: Laurie Schwab.

MANAGING EDITOR: Leonard J. Shaw.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Bill Vojtek.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Sam Bellomo.

SYDNEY MANAGER: Con Shanahan, David Syme & Co. Ltd., FCA House, 50 Margaret St., Sydney. Phone 29 3708.

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Andrew Berry. Address: all correspondence to Soccer Action, 250 Spencer St., Melbourne, 3000.

Printed by Waterley Offset Publishing Group.

Cosmos antiques, Koreans better than Aussies

While the Socceroos' and Cosmos' respective gurus, Rudi Gutendorf and Professor Julio Mazzei, were all smiles and handshakes when coming face-to-face after the match, there was a whiff of acid in the air.

Take Rudi for example: "Cosmos have world star names, but they are playing an antique system."

And the rejoinder from the Professor: "The Australians are aggressive, but the South Koreans have a much better team."

Ironically, there is a large measure of truth in both those statements.

The Cosmos are rapidly approaching a stage in their existence where they will be recognised as a collection of footballing antiques, albeit a glittering and often entertaining collection.

They couldn't be accused of not wanting to win, or taking the match in a half-hearted fashion — as many European and British visiting sides to these shores do.

However, for many of them this keenness surfaced in the form of desperation, crude and dirty tactics when the ball wasn't running their way.

On the Showground turf Beckenbauer, when shadowed by a useful but far from world-class Steve Perry, was non-existent.

Carlos Alberto spent most of his time stationary or walking around at a leisurely pace.

Past skills showed up in the occasional magnificent pass, but tackling, harassment and shadowing were almost completely absent from his repertoire.

As Professor Mazzei, coach, manager, technical director and, one suspects, father confessor of Cosmos, admitted afterwards: "There will be changes next year; Beckenbauer and Carlos Alberto have only one more year of play left in them and three of my assistants are scouring Europe, Latin America and the USA for new blood right now."

"The Australians were aggressive, fast, gave us no room to move and we could use some of these boys in America."

Jimmy Rooney is a veteran, but knows all there is to know about the game, while young Woodhouse was also very impressive.

"We, of course, missed the injured Tueart and Neekens on the day," he said.

That left the likes of Seninho, Morais, Beckenbauer, Carlos Alberto and a few others for Cosmos to struggle along with.

The Socceroos should have such problems!

As for our own Rudi, he conceded the point about the South Koreans, fast developing into the bogy team among our World Cup rivals, the team naughty young soccer players are told will come and get them if they won't behave.

"The Koreans have a fanatical pride in their country and will give their all for the national team," Gutendorf said.

The Australians' coach congratulated his charges for a "one hundred percent effort" and then went on to praise himself — deservedly so.

"I had the guts to take the chance of conceding several goals against an accomplished team, so that we can go out

there and play aggressive, attacking soccer," Gutendorf said.

"I was right, these tactics paid off and, what's more, this is the kind of football people want to see; they will come back for more," he said.

Gutendorf was also lavish in his praise of the promoters of the match. "I want to congratulate International Artists. They did a fantastic job entertaining the public."

"I only hope that our own administrators learn from this," he added rather wistfully.

Diplomatically but quite openly, Gutendorf admitted that all is not well in his relationship with the ASF hierarchy.

"I need the support of the administrators if we are to get to Spain, but this night is too nice, too happy to bring controversy into it."

"However, when Sir Arthur George returns to Sydney I'll have to have a talk with him," he said.

Gutendorf also confirmed that the Fort Lauderdale Strikers of NASL and Gerd Muller fame, are sending two officials to Sydney with an offer for him to join their staff.

"I won't be going to America, though, because I have a lot of feeling for the boys in the Socceroo squad and I always have said that I'll be leading them to Spain," he said.

The multi-cultural, vibrant, excited throngs last Wednesday drove home in an unmistakable manner the lesson which all those who choose not to substitute dogma and prejudice for clear thinking and planning knew already.

If we want to see great crowds and excitement return to our stadia on a regular basis, the paying customers must be provided with entertainment.

What the entertainment must coincide with the customers' conception; it is a policy leading to disaster for administrators to arrive at preconceived ideas of what the multitudes should want and then proceed to try to ram it down their throats.

This is what has been happening lately — and we're fast running out of throats.

The ASF hierarchy has its priorities in an unbelievable mess.

They are embroiled in a campaign against what are obnoxiously termed "ethnic club names"; a campaign which is taking on the proportions of a modern crusade.

This is done on the assumption that such names are the only thing that stand in the way of a huge upsurge in crowd appeal.

Morally this stance is indefensible! It doesn't make any more sense in practical terms either.

What matters to the man in the street in deciding how to spend the entertainment dollar is how good the entertainment will be.

Cosmos proved this; it wasn't racial purity that drew the tens of thousands to the Showground.

It was the likelihood of a top-notch entertainment by some household names in world soccer.

When the success of Cosmos and some of the other North American clubs is examined, one thing stands out.

Their activities are not based on ideology or some sort of immigrant guilt complex; it's hard-headed business acumen, looking to make a buck and, ipso-facto, setting out to give the people what they want.

I would like to think that International Artists were thinking ahead.

"Give them some fun apart from the match and they will return in future even if Cosmos and the Socceroos don't turn it on."

If that was their thinking I believe they were right!

By Peter Scott
IN FOCUS



Korean players congratulate Cha Bum Keun, now playing in West Germany, after he had scored against Australia in the 1977 World Cup qualifying match in Sydney. Australia won 2-1 but the present Korean team is rated by the Cosmos as being better than Australia.

Start of a new era or just a curiosity?

Apres Cosmos, le deluge? It would be nice to think so; it would be nice to believe that Australian soccer administrators will learn from the deluge of lessons which have descended upon them.

Because the fact is that the incredibly successful Cosmos v Socceroos promotion in Sydney can become a starting point for Australia's climb to respectable heights on the soccer scene internationally and a point of departure for a new renaissance of the sport in this country.

Equally, it can become nothing more than a streaking comet on the increasingly bleak sky of domestic soccer; here one night, gone forever the next.

The extraordinary crowd at Sydney's antiquated Showgrounds last week proved several points beyond any doubt.

• The spectator potential is there, out in suburbia, lying dormant, just waiting to reappear again.

• Soccer in Australia can be a money-making enterprise; all that is needed is a bit of imagination and daring in the investment of money.

To take the above points one by one, Cosmos v Socceroos attracted one of the biggest soccer crowds ever in Australia.

Significantly, this in a season of tumbling attendances in the flagship of the sport, the Phillips Soccer League.

The multi-cultural, vibrant, excited throngs last Wednesday drove home in an unmistakable manner the lesson which all those who choose not to substitute dogma and prejudice for clear thinking and planning knew already.

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Their activities are not based on ideology or some sort of immigrant guilt complex; it's hard-headed business acumen, looking to make a buck and, ipso-facto, setting out to give the people what they want.

Meanwhile the ASF is wasting its time and energy trying to figure out whether Ashfield Olympians is a sufficiently de-ethnicised version of Pan Hellenic-cum-Sydney Olympic.

Cosmos officials Dominic Flora and Professor Julio Mazzei confirmed what I already knew when they told me last week: "Entertainment comes first with us. We give our crowds what they want."

That is why they are raking in the millions, while the PSL's crowds are shrinking alarmingly.

While Australian soccer is not — and will never be — on the same scale as the American version, the operating principles are the same, or ought to be.

There must be star quality and improving standards throughout the PSL.

The Yanks do it by bringing in the players who can provide the entertainment — we aim to bar them.

If the ASF honestly believes that the best way of improving the standard of the local product is to make it easier for them to make the PSL sides by chocking off the flow of good quality imported players, then they are exhibiting proof positive that they don't have the foggiest of notions about what makes a good soccer player.

It certainly won't happen if we artificially depress the standard of the domestic competition.

Dogma reigns supreme once again, apparently.

In the meantime, I defy anyone to show me local talent which can make the Johnny Warrens, John Wattkisses, Robert Feketes, Ray Baartzes, Brian Smiths, Clive Thompsons and many, many others of yesterday.

The significant truth is that these former stars and others like them all emerged at a time when Australian soccer standards were at an unprecedented high level at a time when an Ampol Cup double-header in Sydney put on parade some dozen and a half European First Division and international players.

The youngsters looked, they learned, they matched the talents of the imports.

Now we are about to lower

the level of competence needed to make the grade, but the question will soon be: "Is it worth making it?"

Keep an eye on the crowd

figures. The statistics — even after they are inflated, as they regularly are by certain clubs — will provide you with the answer!

Ralph took the risk while others dithered

Ralph Lynch and his intrepid little band of men and women at International Artists rushed in where all the wise men in NSW refused to — and I hope they've made a mint from their venture.

Professionalism is the word to describe their efforts, even allowing for the few minor mishaps along the way which bedevil any such operation.

The one major shortcoming was the impossibility of proper crowd control at the game.

For that, however, blame successive governments which have failed to provide Sydney with civilised sporting and entertainment facilities!

International Artists in a few short weeks have done probably more to put soccer into the public eye than the ASF has done for the last three years.

Now they stand to make a handsome profit out of it all, and more power to them.

Our soccer administration with the notable exception of Victoria, despite its surfeit of millionaire businessmen, failed to perceive the financial possibilities of the venture — thus soccer missed out on the biggest payday in the game's history in this country.

I hope Ralph, and others like him, continue their interest in sport generally.

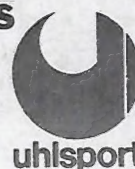
There's money to be made out there — and a grateful audience to respond to people who give them what they want!

Dino Zoff

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FIREWORKS, SKYDIVERS

The promotional activities at the game provided a slight pointer to the future.

There was fun, entertainment, fireworks, skydivers.

The promoters didn't have to do this. The crowd was already in place, having paid its money.

The only imponderable was whether the match would be a good'un or a flop.

I would like to think that International Artists were thinking ahead.

"Give them some fun apart from the match and they will return in future even if Cosmos and the Socceroos don't turn it on."

If that was their thinking I believe they were right!



Franz Beckenbauer — the embodiment of the glamor and entertainment the crowds are yearning for.

Rudi Gutendorf found the centre backs and the mid-field general he had been looking for when Australia scored its memorable 2-1 victory over the New York Cosmos last Wednesday night.

Tony Henderson and Ivo Prskalo are the centre backs and Jimmy Rooney the general.

The Henderson-Prskalo combination from Marconi was the fourth tried out since Gutendorf became coach. The previous ones were: Steve O'Connor-Henderson, Peter Wilson — O'Connor, and Wilson — Stuart Baxter.

Henderson had been used in midfield in previous games against Partizan Belgrade and New Zealand, and he relished his return to defence.

"I like playing centre back. I play much better there," he said after the match.

Indeed, Henderson won everything in the air and stormed forward with the ball continuously. The winning goal he scored near the end was a fitting reward for his effort.

Rooney, back in the national team after a three year absence, was appointed captain for his 85th game in the green and gold.

He was one of the few Australians who could match the illustrious



Greg Woodhouse



Eddie Krncevic

Cosmos for sheer class. Rooney showed it all — neat ball skill, visionary passes, a few Cosmos-style chips, an opportunist goal and the ability to organise and slow down play when necessary.

It was Rooney who was presented by tennis star John Newcombe with the Man of the Match award, but Henderson and left back Jim Tansey were in the same class.

When Tansey got moving in the second half, the Cosmos ducked for cover. Time and again Tansey stormed up the line and cut the ball back into dangerous goalscoring positions, and it was only bad luck that prevented the chances from being turned into goals.

A total of 36 players has been tried out in the five matches played since Gutendorf was appointed coach. The experimentation process continued when Sydney City full back Kevin Mullen was called up, almost as an afterthought. With Peter Sharne out injured, Mullen was included in the opening team at right back, and Steve Perry who usually plays right back marked Franz Beckenbauer.

Players used in the Australian team this year, with number of appearances indicated, are:

4. Henderson, Jankovics, Woodhouse.

3. Perry, S. O'Connor, Degney, Sharne, Boden, Krncevic.

2. Barnes, J. O'Shea, Piccioane, Souness, Wilson, Byrne, Muniz, Watson, Tansey, Yzendoorn, Davies, Cole, Cumming, Prskalo.

1. Mahar, P. O'Connor, Curran, Kosmina, Baxter, Bertogna, Iredinick, Stevenson, Mullen, Russell, Rooney, J. Nyskohus, Silva.

After all that, there are still positions that are up for grabs, hopefully, they will be filled in China and South Korea next month.

The questions to which Gutendorf will have to find answers are:

• Can Australia afford to play with a full back as adventurous as Mullen, or should it use a tighter marker, like Bobby Russell?

• Who will be Jimmy Rooney's midfield partners? Will Ken Boden and Steve Perry continue playing in the middle, or should Eddie Krncevic or John Coyne replace one of them?

• With all the talented forwards at his disposal

HENDERSON,



It's settled — Ivo Prskalo (left) and Tony Henderson (middle) are the best centre-back combination for the national team. They're pictured in Marconi colors during a PSL match. In the background is Socceroo striker Mark Jankovics.



Antonio Carbognani



Vladislav Bogicevic

Mullen was dominating the right flank during this period but his many attacks left Seninho free to cause problems in counter-attacks. Rooney was dropping back to cover Henderson when the latter went forward, but there was no one to slot in behind Mullen.

Jankovics shot well in the 28th minute, causing Birkenmeier to fumble momentarily before holding the ball at the second attempt.

Woodhouse looked much more confident than Birkenmeier, especially in his willingness to come off the line.

He made an excellent save from Giorgio Chinaglia after about 30 minutes, and then Tansey was called upon to block Etherington who was the final link in a chain of passes via Chinaglia and Vladislav Bogicevic.

At the other end, Carlos Alberto made a good clearance after Henderson had dribbled through the defence and launched a strong shot.

Cosmos were pushing

A lot of work remains to be done, and the teams we will meet in the World Cup qualifying series will give us much stiffer competition than the slow, albeit skilful veterans of New York.

The match did not start well for Australia. Tansey fouled Etherington and maestro Beckenbauer failed narrowly with the free kick, sending the ball bouncing off the bottom of the post.

Moments later Beckenbauer speared in incredible through ball into space ahead of Seninho in full flight. Luckily, Greg Woodhouse read the move well, and dashed to the edge of the penalty area where he managed to kick the ball away from Seninho.

The Socceroos' first crowd-pleasing move was a diagonal ground pass by John Nyskohus for Tommy Cumming running in, but goalkeeper Hubert Birkenmeier dashed out to save.

Cumming returned the favor by playing a fine through ball for Nyskohus but this time it was Andranik Eskandarian who got in the way.

Tommy Cumming was opposed by Greg Ryan in the first half but he was to renew the battle he had fought with Eskandarian in Melbourne after half time, when he maintained his practice of remaining on the grandstand wing rather than changing sides.

Nyskohus ran at the defence yet again in the 12th minute, before slipping the ball wide to overlapping Kevin Mullen. Jankovics challenged Birkenmeier for Mullen's cross, which went to unmarked Jimmy Rooney who headed it home neatly from point blank range.

The crowd roared its approval. They had read so much about the millionaire super stars from America, yet our own Socceroos had taken the lead. Remarkable!

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ROONEY, TANSEY

Mighty trio crushes Cosmos

AUSTRALIAN XI 2 (Rooney 20th, Henderson 84th) NEW YORK COSMOS 1 (Chinaglia 75th) at Sydney Showgrounds, crowd about 50,000. Ratings:

AUSTRALIAN XI: Woodhouse 8 — Mullen 7 (Russell 7, 51st), Prskalo 7, Henderson 9, Tansey 9, Boden 7 (Krnecvic 83rd), Perry 7 (Picioane 88th), Rooney 9 — Cumming 7, Jankovics 8, Nyskohus 7.

NEW YORK COSMOS: Birkenmeier 7 — Ryan 7, Nelsi Morais 8, Carlos Alberto 7, Eskandarian 7 — Beckenbauer 8, Bogicevic 8, Carbognani 8 — Etherington 7 (Formoso 65th), Chinaglia 7, Seninho 9.

Referee: Tony Boskovic 8.
Cautions: Carbognani (C), Eskandarian (C).

everyone forward in their quest for the equaliser, but were leaving their defence vulnerable to counter-attacks. Rooney started one with an inspired long ball to Steve Perry, standing alone on the half line. Perry took off across 35 metres of open territory, hotly pursued by Nelsi Morais. Perry could have run on into the penalty area but he shot too early, enabling Birkenmeier to punch clear.

But Australia came again and Birkenmeier was forced to fly out to grab a Perry cross, risking injury by Jankovics who was coming in full bore.

The crowd held its breath when Bogicevic suddenly converged on a loose ball inside the penalty area, with only Woodhouse left in front of him. Woodhouse came at him, Bogicevic chipped the ball over, but he lifted it centimetres too high and it flashed over the bar.

Rooney, Henderson and Nyskohus had been the outstanding players for Australia in the first half, while

Seninho, Etherington and Beckenbauer had done good work for the visitors.

Gutendorf made a wise move six minutes after the interval when he replaced Mullen with Russell. Clearly, Seninho had been causing Australia too many problems, and Russell was looked upon to subdue the Portuguese star.

But Seninho quickly escaped. Before Russell had had time to warm to his task, Seninho was operating on the opposite wing, against Jim Tansey.

Tansey not only stopped Seninho, but he also became Australia's main driving force in the second half.

Inspired by Tansey's countless gallops, Russell tried one of his own on the right. He got to the line and sent over a menacing cross, which Birkenmeier punched out, straight to lurking Ken Boden who rammed it back low, but wide of goal.

Beckenbauer was playing as sweeper now but Steve Perry was not reluc-

ved of the job of marking him. This resulted in Perry playing as a fourth forward. Carlos Alberto had taken Beckenbauer's place in midfield.

A weaving run by Rooney looked promising but Bogicevic cut him down from behind. The resultant free kick, taken by Henderson, missed narrowly.

Tansey went on a spectacular run past Carlos Alberto, down the flank, and cut the ball back to Nyskohus who shot over the bar.

Eskandarian was shown the yellow card by Tony Boskovic for having fouled Cumming. Again Henderson took the free kick, blasting narrowly over.

Santiago Formoso replaced Etherington in the 65th minute — a surprising move, as Etherington had shown more aggression than the other Cosmos forwards.

Australia continued to attack, with Jankovics dashing to the line and cutting the ball back high to the far side of goal where Cumming hit the ball first-time on the volley, but once again it was too high.

Tansey took off again down the flank and his cut-back found Perry unmarked in the middle of the penalty area but Perry missed from 15 metres.

The Socceroos had wasted so many chances, and finally paid for it when Cosmos moved forward and equalised in the 75th minute.

It started with an inspired long ball by Bogicevic to Carbognani who slipped the ball square for Chinaglia to turn and slam into the net.

Chinaglia had an altercation with Henderson, during which he took a swing at the tall Australian. The swing missed, and Boskovic overlooked the incident but he said later that had it been a league match, he would have sent Chinaglia off.

Australia started its most impressive period when Eddie Krnecvic came on for Boden in the 83rd minute.

One minute after the chance, Beckenbauer headed the ball out for a corner. Rooney sent the kick to the near post where Jankovics got his head to it, deflecting the ball over Birkenmeier to Henderson who rose and headed it into the net for the winning goal.

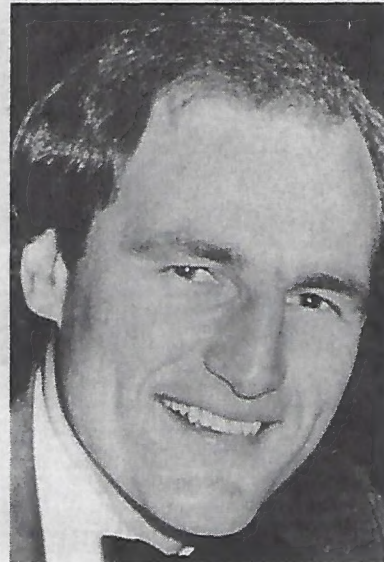
Seconds later, Jankovics broke clear in yet another



Winger Seninho (right) takes on Jim Tansey in the Cosmos v Victoria match in Melbourne. Both were outstanding in the Sydney game.



Hubert Birkenmeier



Jim Tansey

Australian attack. Only Birkenmeier was left ahead of him, but Jankovics slipped and fell over.

Krnecvic made the most of his short time on the field. The guy was incredible!

He broke away with a strong run, stepped skillfully around Nelsi Morais and launched a sizzling shot which Birkenmeier did well to hold.

Just after Joe Picioane had replaced Perry, Krnecvic raced past three

opponents and belted another piledriver at Birkenmeier, who flew spectacularly to turn it over the bar for a corner.

Boskovic checked his watch, raised his arm and ended the game with his whistle. It was the signal for thousands of people to swarm onto the pitch and mob their Socceroos heroes.

Let's hope we see similar scenes during the World Cup qualifying series of 1981.

Crino wins award

Steve Blair, who will play for South Melbourne Hellas next season, headed the only goal in the Australian Schoolboys' 1-0 victory over the NSW Youth team in the curtain-raiser at the Sydney Showgrounds last Wednesday.

Oscar Crino of Juventus (Vic) was voted best player of the Schoolboys and Paul Kay of St George was named best man for NSW.

Another outstanding player was the Schoolboys' centre back Charlie Yanks.

Others who impressed included Rob Wheatley, Howard Treddinick, Daryl Gooch and David Skeen of the Schoolboys and Robbie Drews, Jim Battalio and Brett Woods of NSW.

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Bendigo Bendigo Toyland, 306 Hargreaves Street.
Broadmeadows Dallas Newsagency, 13 Dargie Court.
Chelsea Chelsea Auth. Newsagency, 415 Nepean Highway.
Clayton Clayton Auth. Newsagency, 325 Clayton Road.
Coburg Coburg Auth. Newsagency, 395 Sydney Road.
Dandenong W. C. Cox, 349 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.
Fawkner Brian Walsh Sports Store, 123-125 Jukes Road.
Frankston Martin & McKay (2 shops), 78 Young Street.
Glenroy Woods Newsagency, 773 Pascoe Vale Road.
Mitcham Mitcham Newsagency, 503 Whitehorse Road.
Port Melbourne Port Melbourne Auth. Newsagency, 265 Bay St.
St. Kilda The Esplanade Newsagency, 33 Fitzroy Street.

NEW SOUTH WALES:

Auburn Clarke's Newsagency, 55 Auburn Road.
Bathurst Funtasia Toys & Hobbies.
Baulkham Hills Tago Pty. Ltd., Shop 2, North Hill Plaza.
Bondi Junction Land & Toyworld, Carousel Shopping Centre, Shop 3, Level 3.
Bradbury Pats Sports & Toys, Shop 30, Bradbury Shpg. Cntr.
Burwood Land & Toyworld, 31-32 Westfield Shoppingtown.
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Coffs Harbour Carousel Toy & Hobby Centre, 5 Central Arcade, High Street.

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Double Bay Toy Villa.

Kempsey Woods Agency, 18 Smith Street.

Kurri Kurri Ken James Sports Store, 150 Barton Street.

Lakemba Lakemba Sports & Toys, 147 Haldon Street.

Liverpool Transtar Toyworld, 227 George Street.

Macquarie Fields Glen Quarrie Toyworld,

27B & C Glenquarie Centre.

Maitland Elphicks Toy & Hobby Centre, 404 High Street.

Manly Manly Toyworld, Shop 5,

Manly Mall Arcade, 74 The Corso.

Mayfield Cornally's Newsagency, 171 Maitland Road.

Miranda Miranda Fair Toyworld, Shop 3, Miranda Fair.

Muswellbrook F. J. Ryan, Bridge Street.

Myer's Suburban & City Stores (8), Western Stores (5).

Newcastle Ray Baartz Sports, 257 Hunter Street.

Port Macquarie R. L. & V. Andrew, Cnr. Horton & Clarence Sts.

Raymond Terrace Terrace Toys, Shopping Village.

Rose Bay Grants Toys, 517 Old South Head Road.

Springwood Jordans Springwood Toybox, 147 Macquarie Road.

St. Ives St. Ives Sports & Toys, Shop 12, Shopping Centre.

Sydney Fantastic Toys & Hobbies, 34 Angel Arcade.

Funtasia Toys & Hobbies, George St. Hobbyco, 561 George St.

Tamworth Dandies Toy Centre,

Shops 12-13 Centrepoint, 374 Peel Street.

Wallsend Wallace's Newsagency, 126 Nelson Street.

Willoughby Hijinks, 511 Willoughby Road.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

Adelaide The Goal, 38 Twin Street.

Blackwood Presentation & Toyworld,

Foodland Shopping Centre, 248 Main Road.

Blair Athol Toy Centre, 462 Main North Road.

Christies Beach Denny's Sports Goods & Toy Shop, 58 Beach Rd.

Gawler Marchants Pty. Ltd., 112 Murray Street.

Goodwood Hazels Toyland, 111A Goodwood Road.

Ingle Farm Ingle Farm Gift Centre,

Ingle Farm Shopping Centre, Montague Road.

John Martin & Co. Rundle Mall, Elizabeth,

Kilkenny, Marion, West Lakes.

Modbury T.T.P. Toyworld, T.T.P. Shpg. Cntr., Main Nth. E. Rd.

Mt. Gambier Arena, Commercial Street East.

Reynella Kids Korner & Toyworld, Sherriffs Road.

Salisbury Max Scotts Newsagency, 25 John Street.

Toorak Gardens Burnside Toys & Hobbies, 427 Portrush Road.

Whyalla Duffields Hobby & Sports Depot, Forsyth Street.

The World of soccer... the World of soccer... the Roving ambassador of the NASL

THE 1979 vintage Johann Cruyff is mellow, relaxed... but with that same old sparkle of genius.

At 32 Cruyff is revelling in his new role as a roving soccer ambassador in North America.

Though he is contracted to Los Angeles Aztecs — they played Birmingham last night and will be at Chelsea tomorrow — Cruyff does all he can to encourage his sport across the Atlantic.

"I am enjoying my football much better now," he said. "Of

course we still have to play to win. But that is not the big factor. In America we feel that entertainment is just as important and everything we do is geared to this.

"And that can't be a bad thing can it? Maybe we can now teach other countries when it comes to entertainment and marketing the game.

"There is still a lot of hard work to be done in America. We need to go into schools and colleges to set up coaching to get a more stable balance.

"On a more personal basis I am my own man again and

while I can please myself how I tackle the job I get tremendous satisfaction from helping these boys."

Cruyff makes no secret of the fact that he has re-found soccer happiness.

It is so different to our life in Spain when I played for Barcelona.

"Perhaps from a soccer point of view it was more rewarding, but our private life was not so good. We could not go out to a restaurant or even shopping without being mobbed. At first it was all very flattering, but later so frustrating. Now my family is happily settled in

America."

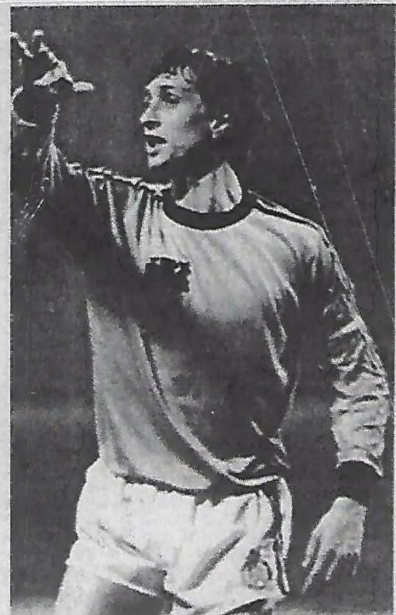
Cruyff, who is on a one-year contract with the Aztecs, is planning to continue his soccer crusade.

"At times it is hard but always very rewarding," he said. "But that is the most satisfying part of it all."

There is one thing he doesn't like about North American Soccer.

"The Astro Turf pitches are not good," he said.

"It's like playing on a carpet. Soccer was meant to be played on grass. The Astro Turf makes it so much more tiring."



Johann Cruyff, revelling in his new role in American soccer.

BEST 'NO' TO GREEKS

From JIM COOK
Our European Correspondent

George Best, the controversial Irish forward, has turned down an offer to parade his skills in Greek soccer with Panathinaikos.

The offer came after Best indicated he wanted to leave the Los Angeles Aztecs, the NASL club, which had signed the colorful ball wizard on loan from English Second Division club Fulham.

Best's wife, Angela, didn't fancy living in Greece, so Panathinaikos' hopes were washed down the drain.

Manchester City and Plymouth Argyle are two clubs interested in signing Best, who perhaps wants to have one last, final fling at making a successful return to British football.

Dave Sexton, the England centre half, who moved from Manchester City to Werder Bremen earlier this season for a mere 100,000 pounds, was unable to settle with his wife and two children and is back home again. Southampton paid a reported 200,000 pounds for his transfer.

Few people are aware that Dave Sexton's father was one of Britain's top middle-weight boxers prior to the second world war. His father Archie Sexton, was a tough and uncompromising fighter. Reports suggest that some of that rubbed off on the Manchester United manager.

Alistair Brown of West Bromwich Albion has been based from four UEFA club competition games after he was alleged to have struck an opponent in the game against Carl Zeiss Jena.

Top First Division scorer of last season — Frank Worthington of Bolton — is set to move, and the Lancashire club wants only 160,000 pounds, a real bargain.

Bobby Shinton, the Manchester City striker, who was bought from Wrexham early this season for 300,000 pounds, has been told by manager Malcolm Allison he hasn't a future at the club. Both Spurs and Ipswich may move for Shinton.

Kevin Keegan is likely to stay with Hamburg after his contract expires and will resist astronomical offers from USA.

Konstantin Beskov appointed

Ajax power

Ajax Amsterdam's bid to regain its crown as Europe's top soccer club took another step forward when it thrashed Omonia Nicosia of Cyprus 10-0 in a European Cup second round first leg match.

Ajax, which won the European Cup three consecutive times between 1971 and 1973, has now scored a remarkable 26 goals in the three European matches this season, beating Scottish club Celtic's record 24 for the opening two rounds of the competition in 1970-71. Ajax beat JHK Helsinki 16-2 on aggregate in the first round.

European champion Nottingham Forest of England could have done with some of Ajax's goals to give it an easier task in the away leg of its tie against Rumania's Arges Pitesti. England international



Actor James Caan practices with a group of junior players at Hugh "Playboy" Hefner's luxurious Holmby Hills estate in Los Angeles. Hefner opened the estate for the young players' get-together with Caan.

Bayern 'converts' Caan

Film star James Caan has joined the growing ranks of world-famous personalities who support soccer.

Caan says he was "converted" back in 1974 while shooting one of his most popular films, "Rollerball," in Munich.

A German friend took Caan and his co-star Paul Newman to the Munich Olympic Stadium to see Bayern Munich play.

Bayern made an immediate impact on Caan. He admired Bayern's captain Franz Beckenbauer in particular.

Beckenbauer, of course, is now with the New York Cosmos which will tour Australia this month.

British fans 'drunks'

GREEK AND TURKISH players have the worst record for violence in European tournaments — but British fans are the most troublesome.

And Scottish supporters have "an acute drinking problem." That's the view of officials of UEFA, who have just issued from their Berne HQ a list of statistics, more or less unpleasant, on European players and fans.

Every team which has played in a U.E.F.A. competition is listed in their tightly-controlled filing system.

And the notes on British fans don't say much for their way of football life. Says a bitter Rene Egerle, secretary of U.E.F.A.'s seven-man disciplinary committee: "The only drunk fan you ever see at a match is a British drunk fan."

"I am sorry for great clubs like Rangers, Manchester United, Leeds, United and Spurs because all have suffered in recent years because of the behaviour of their followers.

"But there's no doubt British fans are the worst of all, for other European supporters generally control their

temper more easily."

U.E.F.A. have a close eye on the British and are just waiting for the fans to step out of line again.

However, U.E.F.A. list surprisingly few offences for last season and reveal that not one club was banned from competing in their tournaments, whereas in previous years there had always been at least two trouble spots.

Eberle pinpoints the reasons like this: "Perhaps the clubs are beginning to become aware of the heavy penalties that can be imposed. Anyhow, we always take into account the previous record of the club concerned and if they have repeatedly committed the same offence the

Celtic builds for future

When defensive giant Billy McNeill was captain of Celtic, the club could boast of nine successive Scottish championships and the unsurpassed glory of becoming the first British club to win the European Cup.

Now McNeill is manager of Celtic, but the state of affairs is very much different.

The Parkhead club is nowhere near as fearsome as it once was, but the refreshing McNeill regime promises a bright future for Celtic.

Celtic has many fine youngsters, who showed last season they have the quality to make a great team. Celtic's championship victory in 1978-1979 was unexpected but achieved with consistency unknown since the heady days of glory.

However, despite being Scottish champion, Celtic of 1979 is inexperienced still, and the fans can't expect miracles in the European Cup.

Celtic, king of the European soccer scene in 1967, have two chances of winning the trophy — slim

and none. The club is building for the future and the fans must be patient. We will see the best of this Celtic side in two or three years time.

Youngsters such as Davie Provan, Murdo MacLeod, Mike Conroy, Roy Aitken, George McCluskey, Tommy Burns and Tom McAdam will learn a thing or two in Europe. They really are boys competing in a man's world. They will be playing in foreign parts, learning their trade.

The courage of this young side is admirable and praiseworthy. They certainly won their spurs last season in the match that eventually clinched the League title.

Rangers' fans who thought the championship was destined for Ibrox again were given a rude shock when Celtic staged a breathtaking and electrifying finish. McCluskey blasted in an angled drive. McCloy pushed it out and the unfortunate Colin Jackson, trying to clear, could only put the ball over his own line.

Celtic were in the lead! Rangers roared back. It was an Old Firm encounter that rocked Parkhead to its foundations, but the resistance came to an inevitable end when Murdo MacLeod, a bargain one hundred thousand pounds during the season, broke on the left and then rifled on unstoppable, blistering left-foot drive high into the net. If McCloy had even got a hand to that effort he could have been maimed for life!

A good run in Europe could provide Celtic with some cash to put out in the transfer market although they have shown in the past that they do not believe in buying big although they have accepted nice fat fees for the likes of Kenny Dalglish, Lou Macari and Davie Hay in the recent past.

McNeill could be forgiven for looking on with a bit of envy as he sees English clubs throw their money around. He says: "I wish I could have just spent three hundred thousand pounds on a player such as Frank McGarvey the way Liverpool did. It's not on, though."

One of Celtic's strongest areas in the team is undoubtedly the midfield. Murdo MacLeod is improving all the time is Mike Conroy. Tommy Burns is a clever, subtle left-sided player and Roy Aitken can provide his ball-winning skills and energetic running when required. Vic Davidson, like the late and great John White of Spurs, fits in and out of the game adding little touches of class.

Problem for Scots

SCOTLAND which has refused to play international football in Northern Ireland for the last eight years, could have to change that stand... or be booted out of the World Cup!

Paired with Northern Ireland in Group Six of the preliminary draw made yesterday in Zurich, along with Sweden and Portugal, the seeded Scots, who reached the finals in 1974 and 1978, now face a huge headache.

An emergency meeting of the SFA executive will be held in Glasgow this week to discuss the situation.

Tom Lauchlan, chairman of the international selection committee, said: "This is undoubtedly a sensational situation."

"It is the strict policy of the SFA not to play in Northern Ireland. However, the alternative now would be to withdraw and I certainly do not think we will do that."

Irish officials are equally worried about security — in the face of an invasion by Scottish fans.

Swedes draw

Luxembourg and Sweden drew 1-1 (halftime 1-0) in a European championship group five match in Luxembourg.

Scorers — Luxembourg, Nico Braun (4th minute, penalty); Sweden Anders Gronhagen (61st minute). Attendance: 2,000.

RUSSELL FOR COSMOS?



LEFT: Georgie Chinaglia — scored in each of the three matches in Australia, bringing his tour tally to 19.

ABOVE: Dennis Tueart prepares to score Cosmos' first goal. Others pictured, from left are: Vladislav Bogicevic, Gary Marocchi and Agenor Muniz.

BELOW: Adelaide City's Agenor Muniz tears after the ball, hotly pursued by Nelsi Morais. Pictures by FRANK HOBBS

'We must bring only the best'

• From page one

The game drew just over 20,000, with about the same promotion given to other touring teams with any sort of reputation.

But the game in Sydney showed that Melbourne too, could have had a bumper crowd with an extensive publicity campaign.

Mr Lynch stressed he was not carried away by the success of his first soccer venture. "To sell something, you must have something to sell," he said. "We must be cautious. We must bring only the best."

The 43,000 paying spectators constitute the seventh-biggest crowd in Australian soccer history.

Police estimated that at least another 7000 gatecrashed — breaking down a door and climbing over fences — which would bring the total figure to 50,000.

This is the third-highest crowd, ranking behind the 102,000 who watched the 1956 Olympic final between the USSR and Yugoslavia, and the 51,566 who attended the NSW v. Everton match in Sydney in 1964.

The partners in International Artists are Ralph Lynch, Ron Kitchin, Christine Finke and Ian Franklin. Former Australian captain Johnny Warren also worked on the Cosmos venture, as did journalist Stephen Blatchford.

Turks win

VALLETTA — Turkey beat Malta 2-1 (halftime 2-0) in a European championship Group Seven match here.

Scorers — Turkey: Sedat, Mustafa. Malta: Leli Farrugia.

Group Seven standings:

West Germany	4	2	0	7	16
Wales	5	3	0	21	7
Turkey	4	2	1	4	5
Malta	5	0	1	4	2



Franz Beckenbauer turned on another magnificent performance after his relatively quiet game in Sydney, to thrill the large crowd that watched the Cosmos beat Adelaide City 2-0 at the Olympic Sports Field.

"Kaiser" Franz had been best man afield in Cosmos' 3-2 victory over Victoria but his movements were restricted by Steve Perry's close marking in the tourists' 1-2 loss to Australia in Sydney.

In Adelaide, Beckenbauer was given more room, and he certainly made the most of it, spraying delightful passes with great accuracy to every corner of the ground.

But the man of the match was Adelaide's own

Cosmos' deadly striker Georgie Chinaglia.

Cosmos coach Prof. Julio Mazzei said after the game, he would recommend to the club that it gives Russell a trial in New York.

Cosmos was back at full strength, with the return of striker Dennis Tueart and midfielder Johan Neeskens, who both missed the Sydney match due to injuries.

These two, as well as Beckenbauer, and attacking defenders Andranik Eskandarian and Nelsi Morais, treated the 23,000 crowd to an exciting display of ball skills.

Tueart put Cosmos into the lead with a low shot after accepting a brilliant forward pass from Beckenbauer in the 17th minute.

It was a shame that Adelaide City dropped behind so early. The goal must have drained the local players of much of their

ADELAIDE CITY 0 NEW YORK COSMOS 2 (Tueart 17th, Chinaglia 72nd) at Olympic Sports Field, crowd about 23,500.

Ratings by Frank Pangallo. ADELAIDE CITY: Marshall 7 — B. Nysskohus 7, Russell 9, Basir 7, Dodds 7 — Perin 6, Muniz 7, Marocchi 6. MALTA 78th — Kent 6 (Northcote 7, half time), Deans 6, J. Nysskohus 7.

NEW YORK COSMOS: Birkenmeier 8 — Eskandarian 8, Nelsi Morais 8, Carlos Alberto 7, Formoso 7 — Beckenbauer 9, Neeskens 8, Bogicevic 6 (Etherington 74th) — Tueart 7, Chinaglia 6, Seninho 7. Referee: Don Campbell 9.

coach Rale Rasic restored part of that confidence, and the City men attacked with new verve. Dixie Deans, John Nysskohus, Agenor Muniz and Glen Dodds, all went close to scoring.

But City could find no way past Nelsi Morais and goalkeeper Hubert Birkenmeier, and eventually it was Cosmos who struck with another goal.

into play and Chinaglia slammed it into the net.

Chinaglia had come in for criticism over what appeared to be a lethargic attitude. He did, however, score in each of the three matches Cosmos played in Australia, bringing his tour tally to 19.

In fact, Chinaglia could have snatched two from the Adelaide game, for he put a simple chance over

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APPLICATIONS CLOSE
NOVEMBER 7th



Peter Sharpe



Mark Jankovics



Tommy Cumming (right)



Gary Cole

FASTEST TEAM YET!



Jimmy Rooney, on the ball for Heidelberg Utd.



Jimmy Rooney (right) in the colors of Marconi, is challenged by Joe Piccione of Footscray.

IRANIAN RICHES

Iran has emerged as a rich source of soccer players since the revolution there caused a lull in the sport. Sydney Olympic is the first club to tap the Iranian soccer well.

Having earlier recruited Karim Ghiasi, Olympic last week signed another Iranian international, midfielder Hossein, however, won't be able to play until next season as the deadline for registration was June 31.

The classy midfielder has represented Iran 18 times. He arrived last Saturday week and is training with Olympic.

OLD BOYS GO INTO BATTLE

Melbourne Soccer Club plans to run a cup competition for "old boys" teams on November 11.

Clubs interested in entering teams should contact Tom Sal on 379 9289 or 366 4500.

New captain predicts a bright future for 'Roos.

By KYLE PATTERSON

Speed — that's the vital, new weapon of Rudi Gutendorf's Socceroos. If the Australian team is to blast its way out of the Asian World Cup qualifying rounds, and into Spain for the 1982 finals, the blistering pace of the side will be the key factor.

The man making that judgement is Jimmy Rooney, the pint-sized dynamo who was recently recalled to the Socceroos after a two-year absence.

Gutendorf had looked high and low for a general to lead his young team, but soon found there was no one better than Rooney, the 32 year old veteran of 85 international games and two World Cup campaigns.

Rooney made a triumphant return. He captained the Socceroos to a memorable 2-1 victory over the New York Cosmos in Sydney last week, scored his team's first goal and was deservedly named man of the match.

Soon he will leave for his fourth tour of Asia as a member of the 1979 Australian team, which he says is the fastest he has seen since he began his international career in 1971.

"This team has a lot more speed than the teams of 1974 and '77," said Rooney. "Gary Cole, Peter Sharpe, Tommy Cumming and Mark Jankovics are really quick, and having this pace makes the future of this team very bright."

"The game is getting faster all the time, especially at international level, and this means players have less space to work in."

"But speed can create space in a tight match, and fortunately the Australian team has this quality."

Rooney added that pace is particularly important against the nimble and swift teams produced by South Korea and other Asian nations.

"Australian teams have always had strength and height, which are also important qualities," said Rooney. "The South Koreans may not be physically as big and strong as Australian teams, but their speed allowed them to overcome their disadvantage."

"If Australia can match its opponents for pace, it will have an advantage because our teams have always matched opponents for aggression."

However, the Heidelberg Utd midfielder is quick to point out that this doesn't mean Australia will whitewash its opponents during the tour of Asia next month.

"The current squad will leave Australia as a mediocre side," said Rooney. "When we return the team will have some character, and that will be the main benefit of the tour."

The results we get on tour won't be significant. The World Cup qualifying games are 1½ years away, and we can start worrying about results as those games get closer."

"Right now, Australia has an inexperienced national team, and the only way we can get experience is by touring and

playing games against top opposition."

Rooney said many people in Australia were worried by the results achieved by New Zealand and South Korea in recent internationals.

"I think you'll find New Zealand is at its peak right now," said Rooney. "They are getting some good results, but the important games aren't for 1½ years. I don't think New Zealand can maintain its form that long."

"South Korea, too, may well have reached its peak too soon. Australia, on the other hand, is just starting off. We have time to build up, and hopefully hit our peak at the right time — around the start of 1981."

Rooney, a witty and durable character, isn't getting carried away with the Socceroos win over the New York Cosmos.

"The boys will keep their heads about them," said Rooney. "We all realise the Cosmos game was a one-off affair, and the result doesn't count for too much. The team will not rest on its laurels, because we know the hard work is yet to come."

"Australia beat a team of world stars, but we shouldn't start praising ourselves. When we come back from this tour of Asia, we'll have a much better idea of how good this team is. But at the moment, I will not commit myself."

Rooney, a perky little Scotsman, has slipped back into the Australian team as though it's his second home. He talks as though he's never been away, which shows this man's professionalism.

Rooney has done a magnificent job for Australia in the past, and will continue to do so. He says he will be around in 1982, and would love to play in another World Cup finals series.

But, did he think his international career was finished when Rudi Gutendorf tried nearly every notable midfielder in the country, except Rooney?

"The thought that my international career was finished passed through my mind," said Rooney. "Rudi said he would rely on youth, and I had a feeling that could mean the end."

"But I knew Rudi would have to bring in someone to help the new boys. I thought it could be Peter

Wilson, Peter Stone or myself."

Rooney's hopes were further dented when Gutendorf called up experienced players like Wilson and Col Curran for the international against New Zealand in Auckland earlier this year, but ignored the Heidelberg midfielder.

"I wasn't really worried, because I was playing my best soccer in three years and knew I had a chance of getting in the national squad. On ability alone I knew I was in the running, and because I've played for Australia before, I've got experience, which was an added bonus," said Rooney.

"But I will not hear of people saying I'm only in the team because Rudi needs an old head. Age is no barrier. There are good players and bad players, and nothing else. I'm in on ability."

Rooney added he had no trouble in reaching and maintaining peak fitness.

"I'm 32, but that's only a figure. What matters is how I feel, and at the moment I reckon I will be able to play for the national team in 1982," said Rooney. "Some players quit when they are 27 or 28 because they can't keep up the pace."

"Likewise, I'll retire when I can't make it through a game, or when my love for the game disappears. However, the day those things happen is a long way off."

His good form this season was inspired by two coaches.

"Len McKendry helped



Jim Rooney in World Cup action against Iran.

with the coaching during the State team trainings," said Rooney, "and Manny Poulakakis boosted my confidence at Heidelberg. Manny wasn't too impressed with me when he first took over, but soon he put his faith in me and gave me responsibility."

Rooney said his slow start to the season was caused by a long lay off during the 1978-79 summer.

"I had about four months off last summer," said Rooney, "and it took me a while to regain fitness. That's why I didn't get into form from the start of the season."

"There were other problems, too. I had to get used to new team mates (after his \$10,000 transfer from Marconi), and to living in Melbourne again."

Rooney's efforts with Heidelberg and Victoria caught the attention of Gutendorf. Rudi was quick to acknowledge Rooney's stature in Australian soccer by appointing him captain.

"I relished the idea of being captain," said Rooney. "The responsibility helps my game. I can help the new boys, who are very keen and get excited before a big game. There's nothing wrong with getting keyed up, but these players need to be given a bit of guidance."

Rooney is now the longest-serving player in Rudi Gutendorf's team. The player in the squad nearest to his tally of 85 games is Adelaide City striker John Nyskobus with 34.

Many people have asked Rooney to compare past

Australian teams with the present team.

"It's very hard to assimilate the present with past teams," said Rooney. "The circumstances are very much different, and so I can't really say one team is better than another."

"However, the present team has a depth of talent and a lot of ability. In fact, there are players outside the squad who will put pressure on those in the team, so there are many good players around."

"This team has aggression with the likes of Tony Henderson, Cumming and Ken Boden, and plenty of pace."

Rooney said the 1974 Socceroo team had great discipline.

"There is not much good having ability without discipline," said Rooney. "The '74 team had a tremendous ability to chase and to pick up opponents, and to work very hard during a game."

"Hopefully, the present team will have the same qualities."

Rooney is the only survivor from the 1974 team which qualified Australia for the World Cup for the first time. He knew success when Australia was the underdog in '74; the humiliation of defeat in '77 when Australia was favorite; and now is shaping up for his third attempt, with the Socceroos facing make-or-break pressure.

Whatever the climate or circumstances, Rooney has always been in there, heart and legs pumping non-stop. Australia is hoping this man's sweat will once again lift the nation to the pinnacle.

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The back four were Brisbane City's stars this year. They are pictured from left: George Potter, Bill Wilkinson, Steve Perry and David Ratcliffe, with their coach Nereo Saftich.



Tommy Cumming did it all this year — he represented Australia and Victoria, won the Rothmans and Bill Fleming Medals and helped Croatia win the Victorian State League championship and Dockerty Cup.

1979 IN A



The Victorian squad that notched victories over AEK Athens, Partizan B (coach), John Gardiner, Steve Short, Alan Davidson, Peter Laumets, Gary Picioane, Joe Tront, Jim Williams, Tommy Cumming.



Heidelberg United started to win regularly after it recruited goalscorer Jamie Paton from Slavia. Paton, pictured, scored 11 league goals.



Two stars of Victorian State League club Frankston City, which faltered on the run home to the championship, Ged Bannon (left) and Alex Tulloch.



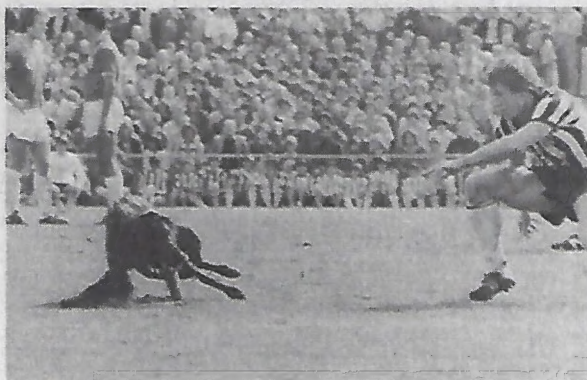
"Mr. Juventus," John Perin — the former Socceroo midfielder played much of the season as sweeper for Adelaide City.



Croatia and Makedonia were the keenest rivals in the Victorian State League. Cumming, Carl Gilder, Steve Beech, Ljube Petrovski, Stewart Cumming.



Heidelberg Utd's John Zvendorn falls as goalkeeper Kim Wishart of Brisbane City pounces to pick up the ball.



Bobby Russell confronts a dog during the Phillips Cup final between Adelaide City and St. George. City won 3-2.



Marconi's captain Ivo Prskalo is carried off on a stretcher during the match against Heidelberg at Olympic Park, after being injured in a clash with Gary Cole. The players seeing him off are Eddie Kmevcic (rear, left) and Mike Berry. Prskalo won the "Soccer Action" — Yugoslav Airlines Player of the Year award.



Western Suburbs — Victoria's new State League club, having won promotion from First Division. Standing, from left: Ray Pocock (coach), David Joe Kiss, Jim Daperis, Ian McCarthy, Andy Czupnik, Jim Condilis. Front: George Theodoridis, Jim Kypirtidis, Mimis Papaioannou, Mike Glyde, Steve Moore, Greg Daglis.

PICTURES



ade and South Australia this year. Standing from left: Len McKendry, Carl Gilder, Steve Kokoska, Yakka Banovic, Jim Tansey. Front: Joe Jamie Paton, John Yzendoorn, Jimmy Rooney.



Here's a scene from their State League Cup clash, from left: Tommy n, Boris Paleka, Steve Kokoska, Eric Lesbirel and Gordon Flavelle.



Kevin Low was one of the reasons that Brisbane City did so well this year. Here he is after scoring one of his many league goals, congratulated by Barry Kelso (right).



Col Curran (right) of Newcastle KB United arrives too late to prevent Brisbane City's Kevin Low from shooting at goal.



Alan Evans of South Melbourne gets up aggressively to head over Brisbane City's Steve Perry.



Mendo Ristovski (front) does battle with Brisbane Lions' Jim Hermiston. Ristovski, then of Footscray J.U.S.T., switched to South Melbourne Hellas late in the season.



Youth international Alan Davidson takes a shot that causes team mate George Campbell to duck for cover.



Jim Kondarios, leaps for a defensive header against APIA. Others, from left: Rosario Rampanti (background), Mirko Rujovic (No. 8) and Peter Wilson.



High spirits at the George Cross table during the Victorian Rothmans medal dinner, from left: Charlie Cutajar, Jim Papores, Tony Castiello, Tony Cowan, Norm Maitland and Albert Morrills.

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CROATIA BATTLES AS BROWN AND PONGHO DIG IN

CROATIA 1 CROYDON 0

State League Cup top four series, third round
Scorer: Gilder 70th min
Ground: Olympic Park
Crowd: 4200 (double header)

Referee: Bob Henderson 6
Ratings:
ESSENDON CROATIA:
Blasby 6 - Short 6, Kokoska 7,
Gardiner 8, Bilaver 8 - Adams
6, Andrews 7, Murphy 7 -
Cumming 6, Gilder 8, Batnovic
5 (Culina 82nd min).

CROYDON CITY: Edwards
5 - Brown 7, Pongho 5,
McCombe 6, Hobson 6 - Spink
6, Brogan 6.5 - Loughane 6,
Priestley 5 (McKinlay 60th
min), Tront 7, Wylie 8.

Despite some stout defending by Mark Brown and Alan Pongho, Croydon City was unable to withstand Essendon Croatia's second half onslaught.

During the second 45 minutes, Croatia attacked relentlessly, although struggling to penetrate the Croydon rearguard, and managed to score the decisive goal in the 70th minute.

The goal came after a John Gardiner free kick from near the corner flag allowed striker Carl Gilder to leap above a pack of players to head the ball home.

Croatia had to win the game to qualify for the State League Cup final, whereas Croydon needed only a draw.

The Essendon team achieved the result it desired, but had to work hard against the makeshift Croydon team, which was without key midfielders Charlie Murphy and Duncan Smith.

Croatia kept possession for long periods, and had many players moving into attacking positions. However, the team created few clear cut chances, despite the attacking play.

Lack of width in attack was one fault of Croatia. Ned Batnovic was negated by Brown on one flank, and eventually replaced by Branko Culina, and Tommy Cumming was surprisingly quiet on the other flank.

Cumming tended to wander too deep to be an effective winger, and made few penetrating moves when coming from behind. If he had played as an out-and-out winger, Croatia may have benefited because the wee dynamo showed he had the pace to get past Croydon full back Gary Hobson.

Essendon concentrated on going through the middle, where Gilder worried the Croydon defence with his sharp turns and ability to shrug off challenges. Gilder played very well in attack, but

could have done with more support.

Keith Adams had only an average game, and Ken Murphy, while contributing to build ups, made few of the forward thrusts that make him so dangerous. Howard Andrews was perhaps the best midfielder in the Essendon team.

Despite this criticism, Croatia deserved to win the game because of the effort it put into attacking, and how it pinned Croydon down after the first 20 minutes.

Croydon had a chance to win the match in the opening period, when Joe Tront and Jim Wylie roamed into open spaces on the forward line, and exposed the Croatia defence.

Tront was playing as a central striker, and Wylie as a deep-lying winger. Tront worked to move off his marker when Croydon attacked, which left spaces Paul Priestley and Peter Loughane.

At the same time, Tront was a valuable target for Croydon to aim for as it broke out of defence. Wylie created a lot of room for himself early in the game by drifting back along the left flank. On most occasions, Croatia right back Steve Short didn't follow him deep into the Croydon half for fear of leaving his position exposed.

Wylie picked up many loose balls, and was a dangerous player with skilful dribbling.

However, the Croydon forward line didn't have the strength to combat Steve 'Butch' Kokoska. As the game went on, Kokoska became more of a dominating figure in the Croatia defence.

He lost perhaps one ball in the air all day, and was solid and decisive when tackling. Croydon had no one tall enough to worry him, especially when centre forward Dave Brogan spent a lot of his time in midfield to cover the loss of Murphy and Smith.

Croydon coach Norm Hobson tried to overcome the deficiency in midfield by instructing Wylie, Loughane and Brogan to fall back and help out with defensive duties.

This tactic worked to a degree, as Jimmy Spink played a defensive role in midfield, which gave Croydon some stability in this department.

Croydon's attacking movements were restricted severely after the first 20 minutes. The Croatia defence tightened up, and Croydon was forced to pull men back to absorb the pressure.

This meant Croydon had sometimes only two players up front, and they were always out-numbered and unable to construct moves.

Croydon goalkeeper Mick Edwards had a shaky game, having great difficulty handling backpasses from team mates. Captain Steve McCombe started badly against Gilder, but persevered and was always around when the going was tough.

Pongho was supreme from start to finish for Croydon. He covered his team mates comprehensively, and was on hand to make some vital challenges when Croatia looked menacing.

The only black mark on this otherwise entertaining and up-tempo game was the tackling of one Croatia player. I will not name him, but his challenges were often crude and a discredit to himself and his club.

Croydon's first chance of the game came when a job by Priestley saw Tront running free. He changed direction, and aimed a curling shot for the corner of the goal, but Peter Blasby read Tront's mind and moved in the right direction to cover the shot.

Soon after, a dipping shot by Loughane brought a good save from Blasby, and not long after Loughane was to get the two best chances of the game.

Tront worked his way down the left, after interchanging passes with Wylie, and hit a precise cross into the box. Loughane made ground from the right, and was positioned perfectly to meet the cross.

He had no challenge from Croatia defenders, but steered his header wide of the post from seven metres with the goal at his mercy.

Five minutes later, and the long throw ball caught the Croatia defence square and appealing for an offside flag which wasn't to appear. Loughane raced through on his own, and rounded Blasby.

However, he pushed onto his left foot and decided to pivot and shoot towards the open goal with his right foot. The delay was costly. Kokoska



Anyone for dancing? Howard Andrews of Croatia (right) and Joe Tront of Croydon (centre) take a swing at the ball watched by Branko Culina of Croatia.

raced in to pressure him, and Loughane hurried his shot, which trickled past the far post.

Croatia had a chance to score when an error by McCombe allowed Gilder to find space inside the box. His low shot was saved by Edwards.

However, the Croatia defence weathered the Croydon storm, with Gardiner again the steady influence. Croatia came back into the game before half time, but it wasn't until after the interval the pressure was increased.

A long clearance caught the Croydon defence, and Hobson was forced into an error under pressure from Cumming, who wriggled free and shot just past the post.

The game developed into a confrontation between the desperate Croydon backmen, and the equally as desperate Croatia forwards. Croydon did well to absorb a fair amount of pressure, despite the fact that Cumming hit the bar and Gilder went close with a header.

Croatia scored the vital goal, which put the pressure on Croydon to adopt offensive

tactics to save the game. Croatia, however, steadied things down and looked set to run out easy winners.

This would have been the case had not Croydon mounted a valiant, last-ditch comeback which nearly saw the eastern suburbs team steal the game.

In the 85th minute, Spink made a run deep into the Croatia defence and slipped the ball to Loughane, but his cross was wild and wasted a promising attack.

Again Spink carried the ball forward, and passed to Wylie. His cross was perfect, cutting Blasby out of the game, but there was no one to meet the ball at the far post.

Croydon still had something to offer. Brogan fired a hard shot into a ruck of players, and from the rebound, Tront lashed a shot goalwards. However, Blasby flung himself headlong to parry the shot.

The result was a corner, and Loughane struck it to the far post. McCombe's challenge forced Blasby to spill the ball to substitute Harry McKinlay.

Only eight metres out, McKinlay spooned his volley over the bar and Croydon's chances down the drain. - BY: KYLE PATTERSON



Croydon's Peter Loughane missed what looked to be a certain goal against Croatia last Sunday. In the top picture, Loughane is seen hurdling goalkeeper Peter Blasby with Croatia's Ante Bilaver in the background. The second picture shows Loughane in the clear with Blasby stranded, but still he didn't score. Pictures by STEVE CHATZIS

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CLOSING DATE NOVEMBER 23rd



Preston's Gary Ward cracks a shot at goal during the game against Frankston City. Ward is watched by referee Evan Venios (right) and Jeff Faulkner.

Morwell to host Italian Cup

The Italian Cup goes to Morwell this Sunday when two preliminary round games will be played at the home ground of Victorian Metropolitan League Morwell Falcons.

The games scheduled for Morwell are: 2 pm Morwell v Yarraleen, 3.45 pm, Juventus v Thomastown. This Saturday (November 3) the following games will be played at the home ground of Thomastown: 1.30 pm Essendon City v Batman 3 pm, Latrobe City v Moonee Ponds 4.30 pm, Regent v Nunawading 5.30 pm, Ascot Vale v Central Brunswick. Results from the opening round of the Italian Cup were: Fawkner 0 Vermont 0, Thomastown 4 Shepparton South 0, East Brunswick 2, East Carlton 1, Tatura 2, Bulleen 1.

ARDEER LOSES BALLARAT CUP

Victorian Metropolitan League club Ardeer was leading 2-0 in the final of the Ballarat Kosciuszko Cup last weekend, but eventually lost 3-4 to Creswick.

The eight-a-side competition attracted 10 teams, and was expertly organised by Mr Frank Rynkiewicz of the Ballarat Kosciuszko club.

The scorers for Ardeer in the final were Anthony O'Connor (2) and Xavier Haveaux.

Ardeer defeated Forest Rangers 4-1 in the elimination round with goals by O'Connor (2), Adam Oboembalski and Wally Gawron.

In the semi final, Ardeer drew 1-1 with Ballarat 'A' with a goal by Chris Glowacki. The match went to penalties, and Ardeer's Peter Boruczinski spot kick separated the teams.

Ardeer plays host to Kyneton this Sunday. The Kyneton seniors will play Ardeer seniors at 3 pm at Helen St Rd.

He's 'King'

Ray King, formerly of Atlanta City and Footscray U.S.F. has won the Victorian Industrial League's Player of the Year award. The award is sponsored by Tarax.

Willie best

Midfielder Willie Vassallo has won the Green Gully Ajax best and fairest player award. Vassallo is a former captain of the Maltese national team.

serve, with the curtain raiser at 1 pm being a game between the under 12 teams of both clubs.

The last Ardeer dance for 1979 will be run this Saturday night (November 3) at the New Polish Hall, Helene St, Sunshine, starting 7.30 pm.

The squad of players that represented Ardeer in Ballarat was: O'Connor, Boruczinski, Henry Gondek, Haveaux, Gawron, Oboembalski, Stan Manaszczuk and Glowacki.

District Cup to Central

Central City scored a great 3-1 victory over Third Division rivals West Brunswick to win the District League Cup final at Anderson Reserve last Sunday.

The match was hard fought, with some strong tackling. West Brunswick had the best of midfield play, with Rodriguez and LaGrecia making some useful openings for their wingers, Chiappetti and Biotta. But the Central City full backs, Tom Vasilou and Nick Theodorou, received the necessary cover from Miller and Gregory to contain them.

The Central City forward line was achieving more penetration, even though the City midfield was not dominating. Andy Evripidou was doing a lion hearted job for Central City in midfield, supported by Koucoumans.

Costa Chrisanthou followed a high through ball and when the West Brunswick goalie failed to gather the bouncing ball, Costa headed it home courageously.

Some well-taken free kicks and corners by Vasilou put pressure on the West defence, which allowed the City wingers, Mike Ioannou and Chris Ionniades, to seize the initiative as they cut inside their full backs.

Chris Ioannides collected a back pass on the edge of the penalty area and curled his shot inside the upright. Minutes later Andy Evripidou while supporting an attack down the right wing, switched the play with a deep centre which was gloriously headed by Mike Ioannou as he soared above two defenders, sending the ball inside the far post.

West Brunswick began the second half with iron determination and Sileira made his presence felt.

Some solid work by the West's wingers produced results down the left when Chiappetti scored with a fine shot on an acute angle

McMILLAN REVEALS: 'I'VE BEEN BANNED'

By KYLIE PATTERSON

Dynamic Preston Makedonia striker George McMillan has been suspended by his club and will not play in the State League Cup final against Essendon Croatia this Sunday.

McMillan, who missed Preston's game last Sunday against Frankston City, confirmed he had been given a two-week suspension by the club's committee.

Preston manager Tony Vrzina said after the Frankston game that McMillan was out of the team because 'he wasn't feeling well'. He refused to make any comment on suggestions that McMillan was suspended.

Other Preston officials were equally evasive on the question of McMillan being suspended.

But McMillan told me this week he was suspended because of an argument he had with manager Vrzina.

"I had an argument with the coach, and later the committee called me up and suspended me. The reason was that arguments with the coach were bad for the harmony of the team," said McMillan. He was reluctant to make any further comment.

The suspension of McMillan threatens to undermine Preston Makedonia's bid to win its first trophy in the State League. Since being promoted to the State League for the 1976 season, Preston has come close many times, but failed to win an honor.

The 1979 State League Cup final is perhaps the best chance Preston has ever had to win a top league trophy. Essendon Croatia has lost a bit of form recently, but still, the team has some magical qualities and no doubt, the players will come together for this big game.

Croatia is a bogey team for Makedonia. The Essendon side has always managed to pull something out of the bag when the heat was on.

Preston, on the other hand, has defeated Croatia in league games, but always failed miserably when it really counted. For instance, Croatia has defeated Makedonia in an Ampol Cup final, a Dockerty Cup semi-final and twice pinned Preston for the league championship.

The absence of McMillan will have a large bearing on the performance and balance of the Preston Makedonia team. Midfielder Eric Lesbirel will have to stay in the centre forward position,

meaning the midfield will be Jeff Faulkner, Gordon Flavell and Stuart Cunningham.

Although Cunningham has the ability to be the playmaker in the team, Lesbirel's leadership will be missed in the midfield.

Psychologically, Preston is the loser without McMillan. His bustling and energetic style made him a feared player in the eyes of opposition defenders, but now, the Croatia defence can rest at ease.

McMillan is the only player in the Preston forward line who can match Steve Kokoska, the Croatia defensive giant, in a physical duel.

The pressure is now on Gary Ward and Robert Cullen to perform.

The man Preston must fear is Tommy Cumming. The Croatia powerhouse has been down on form in recent games, and that can only mean one thing — watch out, Cumming is due to cut loose!

The combination of Ljube Petrovski and Steve Beech subdued Cumming the last time the two sides met, and these two players will have to work overtime to keep Cumming quiet.

Carl Gilder is also in top form, and he will worry big Dave Garthwaite and John Higgins in the centre of the Preston defence.

Croatia may recall forward Branko Culin for his first full senior game since he broke a bone in his foot over a month ago.

As much as I would like to see Preston win the trophy (it's getting monotonous seeing Croatia steal all the honors), I can't look past Croatia. The team, although not as powerful as it was in the middle of the 1978 season, is still a formidable unit. And unity is the key word. Croatia is a well-organised and disciplined team, and even if the star individuals like Gilder, Cumming, Murphy and Gardiner aren't shining, the basic organisation will carry the team through.

Preston Makedonia, on the other hand, relies heavily on Cullen and Ward to fire. If they don't, the team often struggles to get results.



Gary Ward (right) converts a penalty kick past Frankston goalkeeper Dave Gilbert.



Frankston's Ged Bannon is carried off after injuring his shoulder against Preston. Treating him is physio, Arthur Coates.

Beech, Flavell Cullen star as Preston cruises

MAKEDONIA 5 FRANKSTON 2

State League Cup top four series, third round.

Venue: Olympic Park.

Goals: Makedonia: Garthwaite 5th, Ward 17th, and penalty 28th, Petrovski 50th, Cullen 58th; Frankston: Adams 17th and 60th.

Crowd: 4200 (double header).

Referee: Venios 6.

Cautions: McCluskey (F).

MAKEDONIA: Kastner 6 — Petrovski 7, Garthwaite 7, Higham 7, Beech 8, — Flavell 8 (Rainey 7, half time), Faulkner 8, Cunningham 6 — Cullen 9, Lesbirel 7 (Stojkos 65th), Ward 7.

FRANKSTON: Gilbert 6, V. Bannon 6, Adams 8, T. Young 9, Runje 5 — G. Bannon 7 (Injured, sub, Cooper 6, 44th), McCluskey 5 (Swincoe 5, half time), Tulloch 8 — B. Young 5, Mitten 8, Coulson 5.

Frankston may have staged a strong comeback, but it was due more to the individual brilliance of Tony Young and Noel Mitten than to any collective effort by the team. What's more, Makedonia could afford the luxury of replacing Gordon Flavell and Eric Lesbirel for the second half.

Frankston lost key midfielder Ged Bannon just before half time when he was carried off on a stretcher with a shoulder injury.

Young goalkeeper Dave Gilbert, in the team ahead of Frank Petersen, played on after a heavy knock early in the game and went to hospital afterwards with suspected concussion.

The only way Makedonia would have missed out on a place in the final was by losing this game by two goals.

That ceased to be a possibility as early as the fifth minute when centre back Dave Garthwaite drove a mighty 30-metre kick high into the net on the volley.

Minutes earlier, Rob Cullen had come close to scoring after he had dashed away on a miskick by Frankston's Danny McCluskey. Cullen ran into the penalty area but his shot was smothered by Gilbert.

After the first goal, Ljube Petrovski shot over the goal after everyone else in the area had been beaten by a cross from Steve Beech.

Makedonia went to a 2-0 lead in the 17th minute when Gary Ward scored with a 30-metre, bouncing low shot which Gilbert misjudged. Vince Bannon went over and gave Gilbert a consoling pat on the head.

But Frankston replied within seconds when Bobby Adams, unmarked, headed a corner from Willie Coulson into the net past bewildered Lou Kastner, making the score 2-1.

A low, diagonal ball from Lesbirel into the area found Jeff Faulkner storming in for what could have been Makedonia's third goal but Gilbert dived at Faulkner's feet.

The third goal finally came in the 28th minute, from a penalty converted by Ward. Referee Venios had awarded the penalty against Adams who had fouled Ward just inside the area.

Frankston left back Goran Runje almost conceded another penalty when he grabbed Cullen by the shirt as the striker was dashing goalwards.

Venios awarded the free kick outside the area — but it was a very close thing.

Five minutes from half time, Cullen ran down a long ball and cut it back to Ward whose thundering shot hit the bar.

Then, in a two-minute blitz, Cullen and Lesbirel did enough good work to deserve perhaps three goals but luck was not with them.

In a brilliant flash of play, Faulkner laid off an inspired pass to the feet of Stewart Cunningham who tried to lob Gilbert's head but the young goalkeeper flew and caught it well.

Frankston started the second half with Ged Bannon's replacement, David Cooper, at centre back, which allowed Tony Young to move up into midfield.

Danny McCluskey made way for Kevin Swincoe who joined Noel Mitten and Bruce Young in attack.

Makedonia replaced Flavell with right back Mike Rainey at half time and shortly afterwards brought on youngster Con Stojkos for Eric Lesbirel.

The replacement of Flavell in particular, was puzzling. He had done some classy things in the first half.

Makedonia increased its lead after only five minutes when Cullen played the ball square from left to right where Petrovski slammed it into the net.

Frankston replied with Adams' second goal — another header that went in off the post after a Bruce Young corner.

Noel Mitten, who was in full flight now, could perhaps have been awarded a penalty after a foul by Beech, but the referee thought otherwise. Then Mitten ran into the area but his shot hit the side netting.

Beech was limping as Tony Young chipped over the defence to Adams whose shot was marginally off-line.

Mitten flashed into play again with a brilliant ball forward to Bruce Young who crossed it back for a shot by Mitten that hit the crossbar and bounced down, back into play.

Bruce Young made another run and cut the ball back into the direction of Mitten and Swincoe in the penalty area, but Makedonia cleared desperately.

Makedonia sealed the match two minutes from the end when Cullen skirted past three men until he was the opening and slotted the ball low past Gilbert into the far corner — LAURIE SCHWAB.

Richmond the champ

Richmond won the Waverley six-a-side tournament by beating Park Rangers 5-1 in the final at the weekend.

Mallacoota, which came from faraway eastern Victoria, did extremely well in advancing to the latter stages of the competition.

KEEP FIT

Junior players can keep fit during the off-season at special fitness sessions being run by coach John Kalinehev. The sessions are at Makedonia's ground, Connor Reserve, Reservoir, every Wednesday from 6 pm.

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Scores, tables

ITALY										
Acqui 2	Bologna 8	Avellino 0	Udinese 0	Caprioli 1	Pesaro 0	Florence 3	Catanzaro 0	Inter 2	Milan 0	Juventus 1
P W D L F A P										
Inter	7	5	2	0	10	32				
Juventus	7	4	2	1	10	5	10			
Torino	7	3	3	1	8	4	9			
Milan	7	3	3	1	7	4	8			
Caprioli	7	2	5	0	4	2	9			
Florence	7	2	3	2	8	8	7			

WEST GERMANY										
Hertha BSC Berlin 1	Frankfurt 0	Eintracht Braunschweig 2	Fortuna Dusseldorf 0	Bayern Munich 1	Colonia 2	Muenchengerbach 2	Werder Bremen 1	MSV Duisburg 1	Karlsruher 1	VFB Stuttgart 1
P W D L F A P										
Bayern	10	7	1	2	22	12	15			
Eintracht	10	5	3	2	21	11	13			
Schalke 04	10	5	3	2	19	10	13			
Frankfurt	10	6	4	0	18	14	12			
Muenchengerbach	10	4	3	3	22	18	11			
Colonia	10	4	3	3	22	18	12			

HOLLAND										
Go Ahead Eagles 1	PSV Eindhoven 2	Mac Breda 1	Twente 0	Excelsior 1	Willem II 1	Heerenveen 1	SVV 2	De Graafschap 2	Fortuna Sittard 1	Excelsior 1
P W D L F A P										
PSV	10	7	1	2	24	10	17			
Excelsior	10	6	4	0	22	8	18			
Fortuna	10	6	4	0	22	8	18			
Excelsior	10	6	4	0	22	8	18			
Excelsior	10	6	4	0	22	8	18			

AUSTRIA										
Austria Salzburg 2	Sturm Graz 1	Vienne 1	Rapid 1	Austria Wien 3	Wi. Schwarz 1	First Vienna 2	Gak 2	Admira Wacker 0	Vestel 1	Linz 1
P W D L F A P										
Salzburg	11	7	3	1	16	10	17			
Austria Wien	11	5	4	2	28	17	16			
Rapid	11	6	3	2	18	11	14			
Austria Salzburg	11	4	3	4	12	18	11			

NORTHERN IRELAND										
Ballymena United 4	Coleman 2	Dungannon 2	Portlough 3	Crowley 0	Glenties 1	Donaghadee 1	Ards 0	Glenties 2	Lisburn 2	Larne 0
P W D L F A P										
Ballymena	11	7	3	1	16	10	17			
Portlough	11	6	3	2	18	11	14			
Portlough	11	6	3	2	18	11	14			
Portlough	11	6	3	2	18	11	14			

SPAIN										
Atletico Madrid 0	Las Palmas 0	Sevilla 3	Athletic Bilbao 1	Malaga 2	Valencia 1	Burgos 1	Rayo Vallecano 1	Sporting 4	Barcelona 1	Harcos de Almeria 0
P W D L F A P										
Sevilla	7	5	2	0	14	5	12			
Real Madrid	7	5	2	0	15	5	12			
Real Sociedad	7	4	3	0	9	5	11			
Sevilla	7	3	3	1	11	8	9			

CZECHOSLOVAKIA										
Bohemians Praha 1	Dukla Praha 0	ETC Kosice 0	19th Club 0	Zenkovice Brno 3	Sparta Praha 1	Bank Ostrava 3	Lokomotiv Kosice 2	Spartak Trnava 0	Inter Bratislava 0	Slavia Praha 2
P W D L F A P										
Bohemians	11	7	3	1	17	4	17			
Bank Ostrava	11	6	3	2	12	15	15			
Bank Ostrava	11	6	3	2	12	15	15			

EAST GERMANY										
Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1
P W D L F A P										
Eintracht	11	7	3	1	17	4	17			
Eintracht	11	6	3	2	12	15	15			
Eintracht	11	6	3	2	12	15	15			

WEST GERMANY										
Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1
P W D L F A P										
Eintracht	11	7	3	1	17	4	17			
Eintracht	11	6	3	2	12	15	15			
Eintracht	11	6	3	2	12	15	15			

NETHERLANDS										
Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1	Eintracht Leipzig 1
P W D L F A P										
Eintracht	11	7	3	1	17	4	17			
Eintracht	11	6	3	2	12	15	15			
Eintracht	11	6	3	2	12	15	15			

Qualifications.
Closing Date 16th November

Dr Walker diagnoses soccer's ailments and prescribes his cure

One of Australia's most experienced soccer administrators, Dr Charles Walker, spoke out this week on the big issues facing the sport in the 1980s.

His verdict is that soccer is heading in too many wrong directions but he offers new avenues which he believes will return soccer to the position of power it held in the early sixties.

Dr Walker, 73, is a patron of the Victorian Soccer Federation and for 10 years has been a member of its Appeals Board.

A former soccer player, boxer, middle distance runner, rugby, ice hockey and handball player in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Italy, Dr Walker was president of Victorian club Polonia for 13 years.

He was an official of the Victorian Amateur Soccer Football Association and of the Australian Association but withdrew when the historic "split" led to the extinction of the associations and their replacement by new federations.

Dr Walker often served as team doctor with the Victorian side and the Socceroos when they played in Melbourne.

And it was Dr Walker who established the link with the Polish Olympic Committee, which led to international players like Vic Janczyk, Eddie Zientara, and Eddie Jankowski, coming to Australia to play for Polonia.

Dr Walker has always been a sportsman in the most lofty meaning of the word. The development of a healthy mind and body through sport and the comradeship that goes with sport have always been his main concerns.

One of the reasons he withdrew at the time of the split was that he believed some of the new people entering the game were not true sportsmen. He once went to the extreme of exclaiming: "You are a bunch of Al Capones."

"Sport is something you are born with. It is in your blood, but some of these people didn't know the meaning of the word," he said.

Dr Walker saw soccer grow from a paddock sport into a rousing spectacle that drew up to 20,000 people in the early sixties, and he saw the numbers shrink back to mere hundreds.

We sought his opinions on the reasons and the remedies, for this is a man whose views are respected.

"I've talked to various people to try to find out why there has been such a noticeable drop in attendances over the years. Some said, migrants now have other interests - their mortgages, their cars and washing machines. Others talked about the drop in the standard of the game."

"What I've noticed myself is that the base of the sport has expanded tremendously. There are, I believe, about 2000 junior clubs alone. The people interested in the game are flung far and wide, so support for games in the top leagues is diluted."

"Yet, with all the juniors we have, there does not seem to be sufficient continuation between junior and senior soccer."

"One would expect five to ten percent of juniors to go through to the top in senior soccer but I don't think this has been the case."

"The ASF obviously wants to expand the interest and involvement in soccer. In its wisdom, it has

By LAURIE SCHWAB

example - would worry more about how many people smoke its cigarettes than about the name of a club or league it may support. Companies will not sponsor a sport that does not attract spectators."

On the question of imported players, Dr Walker stressed that of course he would prefer to see Australian-born players used exclusively.

However, he added that Australian soccer needs the stimulation which has been provided over the years by giants like Dixie Deans, Malcolm Macdonald, Martin Peters, Vic Janczyk, Tony and Lolly Vella, Mike de Bruyckere, Ivan Piki, Vero Mladenovic, Leo Baumgartner, Herbert Ninaus, Con Nestoridis, Mario Corti, Willi Schroff and the other stars



Dixie Deans of Adelaide City - we must continue importing players of his calibre, says Dr Walker.



Malcolm Fraser, in Canberra City shirt, admires the heading skill of Johnny Warren. Soccer officials should do more to lobby Mr F and other influential people to get a better deal for the sport, says Dr Walker.

who helped lift Australian soccer into the limelight.

"As long as our local boys can't match that standard, we will continue to struggle," Dr. Walker said.

"And if we do without imports, the standard will not go up. Therefore, interest in the game would not increase."

"In other words, the importation of players must continue, although it definitely could be more selective."

Dr. Walker believes too much money, effort and time has been spent on Australia's World Cup aspirations.

The money should be spent on junior coaching and improved playing facilities instead.

"Look at our preparation for the next World Cup - again we're creating an artificial Australian team by getting people naturalised at the last moment."

"And what will it get us? We reached the 1974 World Cup finals but after a month or two of elation, everyone forgot all about it."

"We had an excellent coach in those days - Rale Rasic, who achieved tremendous success. I saw

Rasic talk to players. As a former player myself, I know that a lot of what a coach says goes in one ear and out the other, but with Rasic, the players hung on every word he said."

"Then came two coaches who weren't in Rasic's class and who produced nothing."

"Now we have a new coach again. We are spending a lot of money on him and on the World Cup campaign - much more than we spent in Rasic's time."

"Can't the money be used for a better purpose?"

"As the moment, children are being coached by ambitious parents who are having a bad influence on the youngsters, with their win-at-all costs attitude. Children must be taught that soccer is sport and that the joy of participation is more important than whether you win or lose."

"So the money now spent on the World Cup should be put into full-time junior coaches employed by the ASF. This would do much more good than throwing the money away on trying to get to the finals of a tournament we have no hope of winning anyway."

And how does Dr. Walker see the current state of the Philips League, and its future?

"It's a good competition," he said, "but with few exceptions, the clubs are broke and there's no way they can catch up with their financial obligations on gate takings alone."

"This applies not only to the 'smaller' States but also to NSW and its poker machines. Why? Unrealistic payment to players is one reason but even more important, there does not seem to be a firm policy by which the league operates."

"The relegation-promotion issue is one example. It is illogical to throw out a well-established club like Olympic which has probably the strongest potential support in Sydney and bring in a club like Blacktown, which has virtually no support. Even in the State League, Blacktown is not a leading club. Woolongong would have been a better choice."

"But more important, promotion and relegation must be brought into line with regular soccer practice as soon as possible."

"This means that the bottom two go down and



Dr Charles Walker.

the top two go up on sporting merit alone. Any club that thinks it can't afford to go up, could simply decline."

Dr. Walker fears that Sydney's big social clubs eventually will stop subsidising their soccer teams.

"Two years ago I went with the former Wilhelmina player, Bill Westerveld, to the Hakoah social club in Bondi, where I met the treasurer. He told me that he thought Hakoah would pull its team out of top soccer because it was more important to pay off the social club building than to throw money away on a team that gets nothing back through the gate."

Dr. Walker said it was important for the PSL to cut its air fares by splitting up into two regions - north and south, or east and west, as is done in the U.S.

There would be two championship competitions, with the two or four leaders from each group advancing to a play-off series at the end of the year.

"Now, what I am about to suggest next may attract heavy opposition from the federations," Dr. Walker warned, warming to his pet subject.

"The suggestion is that we revive the international competition that was so successful in Victoria in the fifties and sixties."

In this competition, players from various clubs were chosen for "national" representative teams. Thus, the competition would feature England, Scotland, Germany, Poland, Australia, Italy, Greece, and so on.

"It was tremendously successful," Dr. Walker recalled. "The crowds were huge."

"I'm sure the people would come back if we revived it. It is the only local competition which would be sure to make money."

"Some will say that it would cause friction between nationalities but to them I say that in all the time I was chairman of the competition, we did not have a single disciplinary case - and the competition ran for 12 years."

"The ABC costs each taxpayer about \$130 a year, so we are in a position to apply pressure on the ABC to look after the many migrants who form a large percentage of the taxpayers. I believe 20 per cent of all people in Australia were born overseas."

"The ABC must be made to understand that there are 450,000 registered soccer players in this country. If you add their families, we have at least 1.2 million people with a direct interest in the sport."

"The Federation, when it was formed, discarded it because it was intent on destroying whatever the Association had built up."

"I would revive the series with eight teams initially."

"The most important team would, of course, be Australia. It would comprise only players born here."

"The other teams could be chosen from among England, Scotland, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, Ireland, Holland, Croatia, Germany, Macedonia, Poland etc. etc."

"This would extend the season of course, but that problem could be solved simply by scrapping the top four competition, which is of no value anyway. It is simply a copy from Australian Rules. In soccer the league champion is the best team. That's the way it has always been."

Dr Walker spoke briefly about soccer's need for greater Press coverage.

"An experienced journalist, Jack Dunne, told me once that the Press deserved most of the credit for having built Australian Rules football into the giant sport it is today. He was right."

"Soccer needs at least part of the type of publicity that is given to Australian Rules."

"We also need television coverage."

"The ABC costs each taxpayer about \$130 a year, so we are in a position to apply pressure on the ABC to look after the many migrants who form a large percentage of the taxpayers. I believe 20 per cent of all people in Australia were born overseas."

"The ABC must be made to understand that there are 450,000 registered soccer players in this country. If you add their families, we have at least 1.2 million people with a direct interest in the sport."

"What's the good if you have people like Malcolm Fraser at soccer functions if you don't take the opportunity to apply a little pressure? We must demand support and we must provide the figures to back us up."

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Yakka Banovic

Eddie Krncevic

Banovic, Krncevic deals not finalised

The Australian national team's tour of China is playing havoc with Essendon Croatia's plans to finalise the transfer of Yakka Banovic and Eddie Krncevic.

Croatia is supposed to play Philips League giants Marconi and Heidelberg Ltd to fulfil contractual obligations. The problem is that these three clubs supply nine of the 20 players in the national squad, which leaves for China on November 7.

Only one game is certain — Croatia v Heidelberg on November 11 at Olympic Park, kick off 3 pm. All gate receipts from this game will go to Heidelberg, which bought goalkeeper Banovic from Croatia early this season.

Heidelberg paid \$15,000 and added goalkeeper Peter Blasby in return for Banovic, the spectacular Victorian team star.

Jimmy Rooney, Gary Cole, Jim Tansey (Heidelberg) and Tommy Cumming (Croatia) will miss that game, as they will be with the Socceroos.

The complicated transfer of Krncevic to Marconi will not be completed until a second game is played between the two clubs. In the first 'contract' game, played in Sydney early this season, Marconi won 7-0.

However, the second game will have to wait until 1980. Marconi has five players — Peter Sharpe, Mark Kankovics, Tony Henderson, Eddie Krncevic and Ivo Prskalo — in the national squad.

The Krncevic deal is one of the most complicated on record. Croatia's shrewd manager Frank Burin made sure Croatia still had a hold on the young striker when he joined Marconi.

So much so, that if Krncevic wants to transfer to South Melbourne, as is rumoured, he will have to transfer back to Croatia first. Croatia can buy Krncevic back for \$9,000 if the player decides to leave Marconi, and get the club's consent. — KYLE PATTERSON.

SYDNEY CITY 1 BRISBANE CITY 0

Scorer: Marcos Silva 76th min.

Ground: Wentworth Park.

Crowd: 2532.

Referee: Ken Allen 6.

Cautions: Ratcliffe, Kelso.

SYDNEY CITY: Clarke 8,

Mullen 6, O'Connor 7, Thom-

son 7, Bruce 7, Souness 7,

Stevenson 6, Kershaw 6

(Marcus Silva 6, 53rd min),

Watson 7, Barnes 8, Hilton

Silva 6.

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart

8, Parry 7, Coyne 7, Ratcliffe

7, Wilkinson 7, Pimblett 6,

Echeverria 6 (Brusasco 62nd)

— (Caldwell 80th), Gaffney 7,

Low 6, Kelso 7, Campbell 6.

There was very little to cheer about as Brisbane City and Sydney City ambled through the first leg of the PSL Grand Final with a lot of passion to succeed, but very little idea and planning.

In fact, the first half of this game was a replica of last week's encounter between Sydney City and Marconi, with Sydney City having ascendancy on this occasion.

With Murray Barnes in the central striking posi-

Alex Vesic



tion, Sydney City's midfield lacked in fire and penetration and much of the attacking was done through some good running by the fullbacks, Kevin Mullen and Ian Bruce. However, most of the breaks created by Mullen or Bruce invariably finished with a long looping cross into the area that was easily despatched by the tall Brisbane City defence.

For about 20 minutes in the first half the game seemed around the centre of the pitch, then suddenly came an unexpected change for Brisbane. Barry Kelso decided to try his luck from outside the box, aiming for the bottom left hand corner and Todd Clarke failed to hold the slippery ball. Kevin Low pounced, but blasted over the bar from only five metres out!

Almost immediately, the home side had its first opportunity. Hilton Silva's cross was headed away by a defender, but only to the feet of the onrushing John Stevenson, who blasted it high and wide from only 12 metres out.

Minutes later, Kim Wishart was called upon to make a great save from a thunderbolt by Ian Bruce.

With the end of the first half approaching, Sydney City created a couple of chances that could have changed this game. In the 32nd minute, Allan Ker-

shaw missed the ball inches from goal after a great low cross by Watson. Six minutes later, Barnes rose above the Brisbane City defence to head towards Kershaw, who in turn headed for Ian Souness to backheel the ball past Wishart and the upright.

Marcus Silva replaced Kershaw in the 50th minute, and then Brisbane City made its change by pulling out the injured Roberto Echeverria and replacing him with Mark Brusasco.

These changes did very little to improve the standard of this match, which was full of over-enthusiastic tackles, pushing, yelling and a lot of backchatting that was unchecked by Mr Allen. I am quite sure that Echeverria never stopped talking for the full 62 minutes spent on the park and most of what he said was directed at the referee, but he managed to escape without a single warning. The same could be said for a number of players on both sides.

With the game fast approaching the end, an incident on the sideline which involved Bobby Campbell and Eddie Thomson created a diversion that was at least entertaining although one might be tempted to call it "ungentlemanly conduct." Thomson attempted to rake the ball away from Campbell and in the process took Campbell's legs also, which prompted the ever alert Allen to give the visitors a free kick. Annoyed with the action of Thomson, Campbell jumped to his feet, grabbed Thomson by the neck, then planted a great big kiss on the lips of the be-

mused Sydney City defender!

While the crowd had its little chuckle, a slightly annoyed Thomson staggered back towards his goal with the man in the middle, Mr Allen, sporting a great big grin on his face, totally enjoying the whole scene.

Was it ungentlemanly conduct?

Yes, but certainly not worth a yellow card.

Only a minute later, the home team struck. Mullen found Ian Bruce on the left flank with a great cross field pass and the City fullback had a lot of space to run into. He took a few strides before crossing to the near post for Marcus

Silva to flick the ball past Wishart and give the home side the long awaited advantage for the return game in Brisbane.

Almost from the kick off, the visitors had a glorious opportunity to snatch an equaliser. Brusasco ran well to latch onto a through ball and face Clarke, but his shot went high over the bar with Clarke stranded and the goal open wide for the taking.

Brusasco was immediately replaced by Kevin Caldwell, but far too late to alter the scoreline. Sydney City now must defend its slender lead in Brisbane.



John Coyne (left) of Brisbane City beats Adelaide City's Garry Marocchi in the air.

CONCORD WINS CUP

Concord won the South American Cup tournament organised by South Dandenong Club, at St Andrews Reserve in South Dandenong at the weekend.

Competing teams were: West Melbourne, Hotham United, Yarraleen, Murrumbidgee, Concord, Bosch, South

Dandenong and Baiwyn City.

Results: Murrumbidgee 1 West Melbourne 4; Bosch 2 Baiwyn City 0; Hotham United 0 Concord 0 (Concord won on penalties 4-1); South Dandenong 2 Yarraleen 1; Concord 3 West Melbourne 2; South Dandenong 1 Bosch 2.

Final: Concord 1 Bosch 0.

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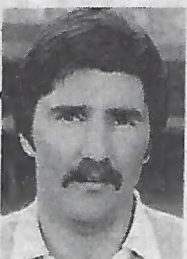
FRANK PIMBLETT



BARRY KELSO



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